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CONTENTS

Soviet Union

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ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Foreign Ministry Press Conference Views Geneva Talks [Levin, Bessmertnykh, Chervov, Lomeyko] AA 1
Chernyshev Comments on Geneva Arms Talks AA 4
U.S. Publicizing of Berne Problems Decried AA 5
CSCE Official Lauds Nuclear Moratorium AA 5
Senator Byrd Hit on Opposition to Gorbachev Proposal AA 5
Commentator on Gorbachev's Extension of Moratorium [Kozyakov] AA 7
Politicians, Scientists Issue Statement on SDI [Mostovets] AA 7
Analyst Criticizes FRG Approval of Binary Weapons [Grigoryev] AA 8
Opposition Noted [Sosnovskiy] AA 9

WORLD & REGIONAL ISSUES

Moscow TV's 17 May 'Studio 9' Program [Zorin, Moiseyev, Feoktistov, Bovin] CC 1
PRAVDA on Civilian, Military Lessons of Chernobyl [17 May] CC 13
WPC Issues Statement on Chernobyl Accident CC 15

UNITED STATES & CANADA

Reportage on U.S. Reaction to Chernobyl A 1
Gorbachev Address Noted [Zholkver] A 1
Media 'Propaganda' Cited [Lavrentyev] A 1
U.S. Organizes 'Hysteria' A 3
Propaganda 'Diverts' Real Issues [Zorin] A 3
Tripoli Forum Denounces U.S. 'Neoglobalism' [Geyvandov in IZVESTIYA 15 May] A 4
Report on Terrorist Training Camps in U.S. [Orekhov] A 6

NORTHEAST ASIA

Solovyev Appointed Ambassador to Japan C 1
Kovalenko-led CPSU Delegation Visits Japan C 1
Japanese Experts: Radiation Below 'Permissible' Level C 1

EASTERN EUROPE

Reportage on Ceausescu Visit to Moscow F 1
Speaks with Gorbachev [PRAVDA 17 May] F 1
Sign Cooperation Document [PRAVDA 17 May] F 3
Moscow TV Shows Signing Ceremony F 4
Party Officials Discuss Relations F 5
PRAVDA Carries Ceausescu Profile [16 May] F 5
Seen Off By Ligavhev, Medvedev F 6
Supreme Soviet Presidium Congratulates New SFRY Leaders F 7
Honecker Supports Gorbachev's Latest Arms Offer F 7

WESTERN EUROPE

'Revenge Seekers' Address Sudeten Germans Meeting [Sosnovskiy] G 1
Kohl Makes 'Impudent Demand' [Sosnovskiy] G 1
Yakhontov Reports Kohl Speech G 2
Ryzhkov, Shevardnadze Welcome Spain's Gonzalez G 3
Murakhovskiy Receives Netherlands Agriculturalist G 3

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Reportage on Klibi Press Conference H 1
PRAVDA Cites Predeparture Remarks [16 May] H 1
Backs Call for Fleet Withdrawal [SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA 16 May] H 1
Israeli Military Buildup on Syrian Border Noted H 1
Khaddam Describes Relations as 'Superb' H 2
Moscow TV Calls Near East Situation 'Explosive' [Seyful-Mulyukov] H 2
Correspondent in Damascus Reports Golan Heights Tension [Blinov, Basiyev] H 3

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

Argentine Parliamentarian Praises 'Fruitful' Talks K 1
Tolkunov Sees Off K 1
Nicaragua's Ortega Interviewed on U.S. Policy, Actions K 2
TASS Notes Contra Leader's Surrender in Costa Rica K 3
Cuban AES Equipment Delivery Contract Signed K 3

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

POLITICAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

Latest Developments on Chernobyl Reported R 1
Gale-Vorobyev 15 May News Conference [IZVESTIYA 17 May] R 1
IZVESTIYA Reporter Visits Site [17 May] R 3
Explosion 'Insignificant' on Nuclear Scale [Velhikov] R 6
'Protective Cushion' Being Built R 7
Silayev: 'Sarcophagus' Being Built R 8
Further on Silayev Remarks [Polyakov in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 17 May] R 9
Death Toll Reported at 13 [AFP] R 10
Blix Cited on Situation R 10
Coal, Transport Ministers Interviewed [Mikhaylenko] R 11
Journalists Visit Area R 12
'Serious Shortcomings' at Chemical Works Noted R 13

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Deputy Oil Minister Discusses Industry's Performance [TRUD 13 May] S 1
CSA Reports Growth in Industrial Production S 2
Moscow Television Examines Construction Delays S 3

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Supreme Soviet Commissions Discuss Bashkir Agriculture T 1

SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

Tashkent Reports Earthquake in Tajik SSR U 1
TASS Describes Rescue Measures in S. Georgia Earth Tremors U 1
Mars Expedition to be Launched in 1988 U 2

FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS CONFERENCE VIEWS GENEVA TALKS

LD161730 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1440 GMT 16 May 86

[Station Commentator Viktor Levin report in an unscheduled bulletin on the 16 May press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists held at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the participation of Comrade Bessmertnykh, deputy minister of foreign affairs; and Colonel-General Chervov, head of a directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union; conducted by Comrade Lomeyko, head of the Press Department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs; passage within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Comrade Bessmertnykh made a statement at the beginning of the press conference. Among other things he said the following:

"[Bessmertnykh] Conjectures have once again been circulated by the U.S. Administration concerning the position of the Soviet Union at the talks on nuclear and space armaments. Official U.S. representatives, like Paul Nitze, chief adviser to the U.S. President and the U.S. secretary of state on issues of arms limitation; Defense Secretary Weinberger; and the President of the United States himself assert that the American side has supposedly put forward some new far-reaching proposals at the Geneva talks and that Moscow is allegedly still not replying to these proposals. Thus, they want to create the impression that it is not the United States but it is someone else who is putting a brake on progress in Geneva and, in a wider context, that it is not the United States but someone else who is developing the arms race in all fields, one twist after another. That is what they say in Washington. But this is what the facts say:

"The Soviet Union, proceeding from the urgent task of freeing mankind from the nuclear threat, proposed an integral program for elimination of nuclear weapons and other types of weapons of mass destruction completely and worldwide by the year 2000. It put forward new proposals for banning and destroying chemical weapons and also for a considerable reduction in all components of land-forces and tactical air forces in Europe.

"In the Political Report to the 27th CPSU Congress, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, the general secretary, presented the foundations, worked out in an innovative and creative way, for an all-embracing system of international security. Displaying statesmanlike wisdom and a high level of responsibility, the Soviet leadership announced a unilateral moratorium on the implementation of all nuclear explosions more than 9 months ago. As Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev stated on 14 May, the decision has been made to extend this moratorium until 6 August of this year. This is a bold decision that provides a real chance of halting the nuclear arms race.

"That is not even the full record of service -- if I may use that expression -- of the Soviet Union on questions of disarmament over the past few months alone. What has the United States done during the same period? It has done a lot, but what it has done has not been in the field of arms limitation and reduction but in the field of an increase in all types of armaments, in working out concepts and doctrines suitable for justifying the militarization of space and aggressive methods involving the use of force in foreign policy.

"The unwillingness of the United States to undertake anything realistic in order to slow down the arms race is being shown in a particularly glaring way in the issue of ending tests of nuclear weapons.

"Finally one could draw the following conclusions:

"The United States has received from the USSR a precise official reply to its proposals of 1 November 1985, and of 24 February 1986. Assertions that this is not the case are calculated to conceal the lack of willingness on the part of the United States to work constructively in Geneva.

"The line that has been implemented so far by the United States at the talks on nulcear and space armaments was not intended to achieve accords. It knocked the ground from under the possibility of achieving such accords and for a businesslike and serious examination of the Soviet proposals put forward at Geneva, revealing by the same token the total bankruptcy of the assertions by official U.S. figures about their efforts to seek for accords on arms limitation.

"The U.S. side has in essence done everything to stifle that impulse that was given to the talks on nuclear and space arms by the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Geneva. And nevertheless, the U.S. Administration does have the opportunity to confirm its words by deeds. At the moment, when the Soviet Union has prolonged its unilateral moratorium on carrying out nuclear explosions for the third time and has proposed to the U.S. leadership, in Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's words, "to demonstrate by their actions their concern for people's life and health," the U.S. Government must make use of the chance being offered it and join this historically important action by the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union, in accordance with the accord reached at the Geneva summit meeting, has put forward a wide range of far-reaching constructive proposals on all aspects of the talks: space, strategic arms, and medium-range arms. This has been done on the basis of an honest and objective regard for the security interests of the United States as well as those of the West European countries. A fundamentally new situation has arisen, which could shift the Geneva negotiations from their standstill, if the U.S.side is ready to go for mutually acceptable compromises."

[Levin] Then the participants in the press conference replied to questions. The first touched upon the Soviet Union's position on medium-range missiles in Asia. Comrade Chervov replied:

[Chervov] The Soviet position also fully settles the issue of medium-range missiles in Asia. You are all familiar with the Soviet program for nuclear disarmament. In accordance with this program Soviet medium-range missiles in the East will be totally eliminated at the second stage of this program's implementation. At the present time, Soviet medium-range missiles in the East are countered by the group of U.S. medium-range missiles, of which there are over 400 in this region. Thus, in expressing the readiness to solve the issue of Soviet missiles in the East, the question reasonably arises that the problem about what to do with U.S. nuclear medium-range missiles in this region must also be solved. Under a mutual obligation the problem of not moving missiles from Asia to Europe within the Soviet Union, and in the United States -- from the United States to another area in the world closer to the Soviet Union -- this problem is quite solvable."

[Levin] Question: Has an official answer been received from the United States to the prolongation of the moratorium? Comrade Bessmertnykh replies:

[Bessmertnykh] There has so far been no official reaction from the U.S. Administration to this new proposal of ours. I should say, though, that U.S. officials, including representatives of the White House, are saying that a moratorium on ending nuclear weapons [as heard], again, does not suit the United States. I should note that we cannot find anything new in what has lately been said in public by representatives of the U.S. Administration, while we wait for the official government reaction. I would like to stress that the U.S. Government really is being given a good chance to show by deed, in practice, for all to see and note, that it is ready to put the brakes on the arms race and later to stop it. A better method -- the very simplest one subject to monitoring -- simply does not exist."

[Levin] Question: The U.S. side speaks about stabilizing and destabilizing strategic weapons and it turns out that the American weapons are stabilizing ones, while the Soviet ones are destabilizing. What can you say about this? A reply is given by Comrade Chervov:

[Chervov] In fact this term is the invention of the current U.S. Administration. The administrations of Nixon, Ford, and Carter did not use such a concept. And if we go back roughly 20 years and look at the strategic weapons situation, when the United States had 1,000 ICBM's, 656 SLBM's, and about 700 heavy bombers, plus more than 1,000 forward-based nuclear systems around the Soviet Union -- while the Soviet Union had just roughly 600 ICBM's -- it never even came into the Americans' heads then to say that our ICBM's were destabilizing. They have turned out to be destabilizing now, at a time when we have reached parity and we are marching shoulder to shoulder, as they say, in strategic weapons, in the strategic sphere." The United States is now of the opinion that everything that the Soviet Union has more of and which comprises its chief combat potential in strategic weapons -- all this is assessed by the Americans as destabilizing and subject to liquidation. Everything that the American side has more of in this area -- chiefly SLBM's and heavy bombers equipped with long-range cruise missiles, each capable of carrying 20-30 cruise missiles -- all these are considered stabilizing weapons in the interests of peace and strengthening security. Even the MX missiles, 10 of which will be put into position this year, each having 10 warheads of 700 kilotons each -- even if the total power of each missile is approximately equal to that of all the explosions that took place during the Second World War, in other words one missile will be equal to the whole Second World War -- the Americans are still of the opinion that it is a guardian of peace. What naivety! What absursdity! But essentially speaking, all the strategic weapons are, in terms of their combat potential and combat effectiveness, approximately the same.

"Take the ballistic missiles of the Trident-1 and Trident-2 submarines. Their combat efficiency is exactly the same as that of our ICBM's -- in range, in accuracy and in warhead capacity. And as far as their survivability is concerned, then, of course, that is considerably higher than stationary ICBM's. But the Americans keep quiet about this. It is of no advantage to them to say this. But in essence, it is the case, that if they were to declare that all strategic means are now comparable in efficiency that means that it is necessary to evaluate the U.S. triad and the Soviet triad and to correlate them in complex, as a single unit, to regard them at the talks as a package. And it is precisely this that the U.S. side does not wish to do. "By the way, it is precisely here that the main reason lies for our not being able to find common language with the U.S. side. It is possible to reach an agreement on strategic armaments -- of course, with a ban on space, on space strike weapons -- it is possible to reach an agreement only on condition that the U.S. and Soviet triad are put on the table and that they are regarded as a complex. Because now, in essence, there is no difference in the combat efficiency of strategic nuclear means." [Levin] Replies to a number of other questions were given at the press conference. [Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1700 GMT on 16 May in its "Vremya" newscast carries a report on the press conference which is shorter than the radio version but adds the following: "Replies were given to journalists' questions at the press conference. Answering one of them concerning the extension of the moratorium on Soviet tests to 6 August by the Soviet Union, Colonel General Chervov head of the Directorate of USSR Armed Forces General Staff said:

["I would reply to you in this way: That this is in fact a new way of acting, a new way of thinking, a new political approach by the Soviet leadership in the nuclear age. This was what was discussed at the 27th CPSU Congress. This is a daring step. In making this decision the Soviet Government was simultaneously taking into account the wishes of many governments, including those of capitalist countries, the wishes of the world public and of all peace-loving forces on our planet."]

CHERNYSHEV COMMENTS ON GENEVA ARMS TALKS

LD161924 Moscow TASS in English 1858 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 16 TASS -- By TASS military writer Vladimir Chernyshev:

At the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space arms in Geneva, the Soviet Union has taken another step which opens a new opportunity to set the beginning to nuclear arms reduction. As the White House spokesmen already reported, on May 15 the Soviet Union tabled a new draft treaty on medium-range missiles in Europe. This question, just as the problem of complete ending of nuclear explosions can be resolved shortly, provided, certainly, that the other side shows the same constructiveness and confirms its peaceable statements by deeds.

What is the essence of the Soviet stand on medium-range missiles in Europe and in what lies its constructiveness? The USSR proposed to eliminate on a reciprocal basis the Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in the European zone, both ballistic and cruise missiles. Meeting the United States and wishes of statesmen of NATO countries, the USSR, for one thing, no longer links the solution of this question to strategic arms and non-militarisation of space. Second, it excluded the forces of Great Britain and France from the European balance of nuclear forces under consideration. Third, it has taken into consideration European's concern over operational-tactical nuclear arms of an enhanced range that had been deployed by the Soviet Union in answer to the United States' deployment of new medium-range missiles in Europe.

The only thing required of Great Britain and France is that they not build up their armaments of this kind if the agreement with the USA is reached. All matters related to this problem could become the subject of a direct exchange of opinions with the afore-mentioned countries. The United States, on its part, must assume the pledge not to supply its strategic and medium-range missiles to other countries.

On the negotiating table in Geneva is now a concrete document which sets out in the context of law the obligations of the sides for the complete elimination of Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in the European zone and for the removal of Soviet operational-tactical missiles of an enhanced range from those districts where they were deployed after the beginning of the deployment of U.S. missiles in Europe.

The responsible approach to this document will, undoubtedly, indicate a measure of political responsibility of the other party to the negotiations -- the United States of America. And the USA resorts to this day to various subterfuges, tries artifically to link this matter with problems of the military balance in Asia, refuses to assume the commitment not to supply its strategic and medium-range missiles to other countries. The stand of two other NATO countries -- Great Britain and France -- is not marked by constructiveness and enthusiasm either. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, for instance, not only comes out categorically against a ban on quantitative build-up of Britain's nuclear-missile potential but also declares that she cannot imagine a world without nuclear arms.

The time has come to start joint efforts to make the common European home secure, so that all its peoples feel safe in their own national homes. It is high time to give an impetus to the advance along the road of ridding Europe and the whole world of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. The Soviet draft treaty on medium-range missiles in Europe is a good basis for making such a start.

U.S. PUBLICIZING OF BERNE PROBLEMS DECRIED

LD161501 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1435 GMT 16 May 86

["Statement [Soobschcheniye] From the USSR Delegation" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Geneva, 16 May (TASS) -- In Berne on 15 May, M. Kampelman, the head of the U.S. delegation, made a statement in which he reported publicly on a draft agreement on intermediate-range missiles in Europe submitted by the USSR delegation at a plenary session held that day. Moreover, M. Kampelman expressed rash and unobjective assessments of the Soviet draft. The Soviet side, guided by the principle of confidentiality that is in effect at the talks, did not report having submitted the draft. The USSR delegation deems it necessary to draw attention to the one-sided and distorted qualification of the Soviet proposal expressed by the head of the U.S. delegation.

The submitting by the Soviet Union of the draft agreement, which has been drawn up in strict juridical form, is a major event at the talks, testifying to the aspiration of the Soviet side to make into fact the decisions of principle made in connection with the talks on nuclear and space weapons at the Soviet-American summit meeting in Geneva in November 1985.

CSCE OFFICIAL LAUDS NUCLEAR MORATORIUM

LD162154 Moscow TASS in English 2058 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 16 TASS -- The decision of the Soviet Government to extend the Soviet unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests to August 6 has evoked enthusiastic responses from the world public. This responsible action became the Soviet Union's contribution to international week of action against war and for peace and cooperation in Europe, TASS has been told by Yevgeniy Silin, a deputy chairman of the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation [CSCE].

He noted that thousands of the committee's activists, among them parliamentarians, public figures, scientists and workers, had taken part in the rallies, demonstrations and other activities of the recent week. They have called upon allied organisations in other countries to support the Soviet initiatives for stronger peace, for detente, for ending the arms race and for preventing an arms race in outer space.

The peace-loving public has every right to demand from the countries participating in the Helsinki process resolute implementation at their new meeting in Vienna in November of the stipulations of the Final Act, the most important of them being the complete renunciation of the use of force in international relations, Silin stressed.

SENATOR BYRD HIT ON OPPOSITION TO GORBACHEV PROPOSAL

LD161855 Moscow TASS in English 1829 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 16 TASS -- The latest important peace initiatives put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his address on Soviet television have drawn enthusiastic responses from the broad international public.

The Soviet leader's offer to meet President Ronald Reagan without delay in the capital of any European state or in Hiroshima to reach agreement on a nuclear test ban is viewed by sensible people as an excellent chance for progress towards the solution of the most important and urgent question of our time, nuclear arms control and the exclusion of nuclear war from the life of humanity.

But it is not everyone that has welcomed the Soviet peace initiatives. They clearly irritated the leadership of the United States. Some, among them the White House, have rejected the proposed meeting out of hand, without going into explanations. Others, camouflaging the unwillingness of the USA to start a serious dialogue on the problem of vital importance to the whole of mankind, are resorting to below-the-belt tactics in a bid to misrepresent the Soviet position and to call in question the Soviet Union's goodwill. Such a method was used, among others, by Robert Byrd, the Senate Democratic minority leader. Addressing the Senate, he said that the Soviet proposal was downright insulting to the United States.

The displeasure of that politician was caused by two circumstances: The Soviet Union's extension of its unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests to August 6, that is, to the date when the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima in Japan more than 40 years ago, and also the fact that it was that city, in which thousands of civilians became the first victims of U.S.-made atomic weapons in human history, that was named by the Soviet side as a possible venue for the summit. Feigning "outrage," the senator argued that the use of weapons of mass destruction against the defenceless civilians had been all but a "benevolent action" which had allegedly made it possible to expedite the end of the Second World War and to save hundreds of thousands of lives.

Anyone having an idea of history will be amazed by such a gross distortion of commonly known historical facts. Richard Byrd, a leading U.S. politician who has access to classified information, should well know that the atomic bombing of the Japanese cities was militarily unwarranted because Japan was on the brink of capitulation as it was. A recent study by American experts on the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki directly points out that this decision was prompted exclusively by political motives, namely, by the desire to show to the world the U.S. military might.

So Mr. Byrd should not strike the posture of an insulted. [sentence as received] The atomic bombing of Hiroshima was not prompted by the military necessity but was an action taken by the promoters of "Pax Americana". Unlike Byrd, honest Americans understand this and make efforts to prevent a repetition of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and fully and completely to remove the threat of thermonuclear catastrophe. Hundreds of thousands of ordinary Americans all over the United States mark this anniversary every year with mass anti-war demonstrations, a manifestation of their bitterness over what was done by America.

Last August, as the anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was marked, American peace campaigners from all over the country came to Washington, took each other by the hands and encircled the Congress, the White House and the Pentagon in a huge human "chain of peace". They demanded that the administration not allow the recurrence of new Hiroshimas.

According to the AP, that demonstration, in which more than 50,000 took part, was the most memorable anti-war protest in the U.S. capital in the post-war period.

Senator Byrd, like other American law-makers, is fond of posturing as a "public servant". However. his words and deeds serve not the majority of the U.S. population, who demand an end to the arms race and the removal of the threat of nuclear war.

If Senator Byrd gives advice as to what lessons others should learn from the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power station, he himself should remember the view of Dr Robert Gale, who warned against the awesome consequences of nuclear catastrophe, into which the military-industrial complex of the USA is pushing the world. "If we are very hard pressed to deal with the 300 victims of a nuclear reactor accident, I think it should be very evident how inadequate would be any response to a nuclear attack," he said.

COMMENTATOR ON GORBACHEV'S EXTENSION OF MORATORIUM

LD161419 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 15 May 86

[Excerpts] We begin with our observer's comment on the Soviet Union's latest decision to extend its moratorium on nuclear testing until 6 August. Vladislav Kozyakov will now answer several questions on that score.

[Question] First, what is the major purpose of the decision?

[Kozyakov] It is a new effort to promote a complete and universal test ban and thus to contribute to curbing the nuclear arms race and preventing a catastrophe. It's truly symbolic, in my view, that the Soviet unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions went into effect last 6 August when the 40th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima was observed throughout the world. It is another indication that the Soviet side is prepared to make a practical step toward nuclear disarmament without a delay.

[Question] How could you explain Wasington's negative reaction to the latest Soviet proposal?

[Kozyakov] It reflects both the philosophy and the policy of the present American Administration. It relies on nuclear arms in conducting its foreign policy and is building up a superior militray force. Such an approach is profitable for military-industrial corporations, but it leads to extremely dangerous consequences for international security. Actually, Washington pushes the world to ever new rounds of the arms race, which is equally dangerous for the United States and other nations.

[Question] Is there any connection between the Chernobyl accident and the Soviet decision to extend its moratorum?

[Kozyakov] Most certainly. Moscow calls on Washington to look at the nuclear test ban more seriously now that the Chernobyl accident has once again shown what would happen to humanity in case of a nuclear war.

POLITICIANS, SCIENTISTS ISSUE STATEMENT ON SDI

LD151746 Moscow TASS in English 1705 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 15 TASS -- TASS Commentator Vladimir Mostovets writes:

The message of an international appeal addressed to the heads of state and government by more than 110 prominent politicians, public figures and scientists of the USA, Canada and ten European countries is the need to raise a strong barrier to a new round of the arms race and to prevent its spread into outer space.

There are among the signatories of the appeal former West German Federal Chancellor Willy Brandt, former Prime Ministers Edward Heath of Britain, Anker Jorgensen of Denmark, Per Borten of Norway and Joop den Uyl of the Netherlands, and scientists Hans Bethe, Carl Sagan and John Galbraith.

The authors of the appeal point out the dangerous delusion of those who still believe that the deployment of strike weapons in space can ensure "dependable protection" from nuclear missiles and even will make nuclear weapons themselves "impotent." Space weapons, the appeal stresses, will not remove nuclear weapons; they are likely to make nuclear war more probable rather than avert it. The implementation of Reagan's "star wars" plans along with a strategic offensive arms buildup now carried out by the USA, the authors of the appeal believe, only testifies to U.S. aggressive policy aimed at acquiring the first-strike potential. They warn against the catastrophic consequences of the uncontrollable space arms race to mankind and urge all the governments to oppose the development of space weapons of any type.

The representative list of the signatories of the appeal testifies to the serious worry of the international public over the militarist course of the Reagan administration, which irresponsibly gambles with the fate of the world. More and more Americans in the USA itself are growing aware that the further continuation of the arms race, let alone its projection into space, will sooner or later lead to nuclear catastrophe. Small wonder that more than 6,500 American scientists and engineers, including 15 Nobel Prize winners, have already stated their resolve not to contribute in any way to the development of space strike weapons under the "star wars" program.

One does not have to be a specialist to understand the perfectly obvious fact that a ban on nuclear testing is an essential and most important step towards dependable arms control. That is why the bold and resolute initiatives of the Soviet Union in that field have evoked broad positive responses in the USA, where the White House is being urged more and more often to join the USSR and reach accord on a bilteral moratorium on all nuclear explosions. The idea of a moratorium has won support among many law-makers in Congress. Addressing the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations the other day, Republican Senator Daniel Evans said that the question of banning nuclear tests was bearing on human survival as such.

Senator Claiborne Pell, for his part, speaking for a number of influential members of Congress, characterized it as outrageous that the White House has more than once turned down the Soviet Union's proposal on a mutual nuclear test ban and other Soviet initiatives on disarmament.

Despite the attempts of the U.S. Administration to belittle the importance of the Soviet initiatives and to misrepresent them, more and more Americans are speaking in favour of the Soviet Union's broad peace proposals, aimed at the removal of the threat of nuclear war and at safeguarding world peace. They are demanding more and more resolutely from the White House that an end be put to nuclear madness on earth and that the dangerous plans to militarize space be dropped. They understand that if this is not done already today, tomorrow it will be too late.

ANALYST CRITICIZES FRG APPROVAL OF BINARY WEAPONS

LD161824 Moscow TASS in English 1754 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 16 TASS -- TASS Political News Analyst Aleksey Grigoryev writes:

FRG Defence Minister Manfred Woerner is firm as the service regulations [as received]: Bonn says "yes" to the production of binary weapons in the USA, the minister said at the debates in the Bundestag on the question of the latest chemical weapons. What he has said shows that the CDU [Christian Democratic Union]/CSU [Christian Social Union]-Free Democratic Party coalition ruling on the [as received] Bonn supports the U.S. sinister plans and is actually prepared, following Pershing-2 and cruise missiles, to deploy binary artillery shells and "Big Eye" aviation bombs on the West German territory. The reservations made by the war minister himself and other members of cabinet about this obvious readiness of official Bonn hardly deserve to be taken seriously.

It is said that 10,000 tons of "obsolete" chemical ammunition that is kept at four U.S. depots in the FRG and that can poison entire Europe now will be taken out of the country by 1992. But is not Washington intending to replace "obsolete" chemical weapons with the latest ones, for whose manufacture the Congress has already decided to appropriate 160 million dollars and intends to add 318 million dollars? Does not the U.S. Administration intend to get consent for the deployment of binary weapons from all its West European allies? It is known that precisely for this purpose chief of the Pentagon Caspar Weinberger will arrive for a meeting of defence ministers of the NATO member-countries in Brussels on May 22.

True, it was said in the Bundestag that U.S. binary weapons are to be deployed in the FRG "not in peace time but only in emergencies", and then with the consent of the Bonn government. But do not the examples of Libya, Nicaragua and other countries indicate Washington's striving to create crisis situations in various areas of the world? Expert on disarmament of the parliamentary group of the SDP [Social Democratic Party] Hermann Scheer holds that given a will, components of binary charges can be airlifted across the Atlantic to the FRG within only ten hours. As to the consent of the FRG Government, it already now fully supports the beginning of the production of new horrible weapons in the USA and agrees to their deployment in its own country. And only a month ago, in April, Chancellor Helmut Kohl solemnly promised at a press conference in Bonn that there will be no deployment of new binary chemical shells on the FRG territory...

It is not accidental that this policy of the ruling bloc came up against a sharp criticism from the parliamentary opposition -- the SDP and the Greens Party, and also against stormy indignation in various sections of the West German population.

The Soviet Union, as is known, proposed that the globe be rid of weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons, in this century and advanced concrete initiatives to this effect at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament. But the U.S. ruling circles and their most zealous ally -- the CDU/CSU-Free Democratic Party in Bonn -- continue putting additional obstacles in this sphere to the development and deepening of the East-West dialogue, that proceeds with difficulty as it is.

Opposition Noted

LD160905 Moscow TASS in English 0730 GMT 16 May 86

[By TASS correspondent S. Sosnovskiy]

[Text] Bonn May 16 TASS -- The West German Government and the CDU/CSU [Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union] bloc forming it fully back U.S. plans to produce a new barbarous type of chemical weapons, binary munitions. Eager to please Washington, they intend to forgo the security interests of their own country and are prepared with certain reservations to make its territory available for the deployment of these U.S. chemical warfare agents.

This has been demonstrated by Bundestag debates on chemical weapons. Speaking there, Defense Minister Manfred Woerner (CDU) declared that Bonn says 'yes' to the manufacture of binary munitions in the United States.

Keen to allay public concern, he claimed, however, that the new U.S. chemical weapons will not be sited in Western German territory "in peacetime" and that their deployments will only be carried out "in a crisis" and "in agreement" with the Bonn government.

Woerner and other members of the ruling coalition during the debates made stock claims of "Soviet superiority" in the field to justify their posture.

The debates showed that Bonn has yielded to U.S. pressure. Chancellor Helmut Kohl, speaking at a news conference in Bonn as recently as last April, said "there will no deployments of new binary chemical shells in the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany."

Bonn's present position has been sharply criticized by members of the parliamentary opposition from the Social Democratic Party [SDP] and the "Greens" Party.

The Government's expressed approval of binary weapons production in the United States "opens the door to a new spiral in the arms race", said Karsten Voigt, the SDP faction's expert on foreign policy. He spoke out for setting up a chemical-weapons-free zone in central Europe. This, Karsten said, could mark the first step to ridding mankind of the chemical threat.

Another member of the SDP faction, Hermann Scheer, said Bonn's position "makes more probable the use of weapons of mass annihilation in Europe."

Egon Bahr, a member of the SDP board, said the decision to start the production of chemical weapons in the United States torpedoes Geneva talks on disarmament.

MP Torsten Lange of the "Greens" party said the West German Government is becoming an accomplice in the new round of the arms race. Government spokesmen's claims that the United States is prepared to remove part of chemical warfare agents from West German territory "in order to promote disarmament," he said, are nothing more than a propaganda ploy. What is meant, he said, is removing only obsolete weapons whose place will then be taken by new, more modern and dangerous chemical warfare agents.

MOSCOW TV'S 17 MAY 'STUDIO 9' PROGRAM

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["Studio Nine" program presented by Valentin Zorin with Academician Nikita Nikolayevich Moiseyev, deputy director of the Computer Center at the USSR Academy of Sciences; Lev Petrovich Feoktistov, deputy director of the Kurchatov Atomic Energy Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences; and Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich Bovin, Political Observer with IZVESTIYA]

[Text] [Zorin] Hello, comrades! We are meeting you on "Studio Nine" at the Osstankino Television Center to talk about topical problems of world politics. Today's guests on "Studio Nine" are Academician Nikita Nikolayevich Moiseyev, deputy director of the Computer Center at the USSR Academy of Sciences. Nikita Nikolayevich's work has received recognition throughout the world and his mathematical calculations connected with the consequences and evaluation of the so-called nuclear winter are particularly well known. The next guest is Lev Petrovich Feoktistov, a well-known Soviet physicist and deputy director of the Kurchatov Atomic Energy Institute at the USSR Academy of Sciences and a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences. Also with us is Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich Bovin, Political Observer with the newspaper IZVESTIYA.

Well, I think that the very participants in our conversation today make it possible for you to guess that it will be focusing on events connected with the calamity that has befallen us, that is, the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

This accident has become not only a fact of our domestic life but also an event which has given rise to broad scale response abroad. Honest people throughout the world have shown sympathy toward the Soviet people and many have offered their help and support. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, speaking on television, has said thank you on behalf of the Soviet people for this attitude.

But unfortunately, the unprecedentedly large-scale anti-Soviet campaign has also become a fact. This campaign has been unleashed by the bourgeois mass media with the participation of certain official figures, primarily American ones. As Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev noted in his television address, they needed a pretext to latch on to and try to discredit the Soviet Union and its foreign policy and to weaken the effect of Soviet proposals on stopping nuclear tests and eliminating nuclear weapons, and at the same time to calm the growing criticism of the behavior of the United States in the international arena and of its militarist course.

Well, it has to be said that it is a long time since the world encountered such a pile of lies, distortion of the facts, and falsification, and so I would like to start our conversation today with a question for you, Lev Petrovich, and to ask you as a specialist to give a short description of what really happened at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. What really happened?

[Feoktistov] Very well Valentin Sergeyevich. Well, you and indeed all the viewers of course see things in the papers. Quite a lot of material is being printed. There was also the recent address by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. All of this in general gives enough information about what happened and generally speaking it is difficult to add anything to this information. But I shall try.

So, purely from the outside what happened? On the night of Friday to Saturday -- from 25 to 26 April -- an accident occurred at the fourth set of the Chernobyl nuclear power station. Fire broke out. There were muffled noises. It all bore the character of an explosion that was not all that strong.

The main thing that gave rise to serious consequences -- and they really are serious, these consequences -- was the fact that as a result of this accident a considerable quantity of radioactivity was discharged outside.

Now, so that you can picture this for yourselves somehow, let me simply recall how the reactor itself is constructed. It is a reactor of the so-called pressure tube type. Just imagine, it contains 1,600 tubes. These are pipes made out of zirconium. Within these pipes are heat-emitting elements consisting of uranium. And inside all of this, which does not completely fill the space, flows water which fools this uranium that produces energy as a result of fission. Subsequently the water goes on to heat up and turns into steam and finally it is in this latter form that it enters the turbines and they in turn generate electric power.

When things are working normally and when this reactor is in the process of being cooled down, the heat-emitting elements are made in such a way that radioactivity is completely confined within these heat-emitting elements themselves. A special degree of attention is paid to this. This is a system, a whole structure, that is specially designed to ensure that these heat-emitting elements do not release any radioactivity in any form whatsoever.

But if there is an accident, these heat-emitting elements become depressurized and all these fragments that have accumulated -- well some of them disintegrated but some of them were discharged outside. And that then was the basic calamity.

[Zorin] Lev Petrovich, what if one were to compare the radioactive discharge about which you have spoken with a nuclear explosion? Well, can you draw some sort of comparision?

[Feoktistov] Yes I can. I would say that it would be possible to make such a comparison in two respects. I understand perfectly that in a person's mind -- in the mind of any person -- this link, this logical link between atomic energy produced directly in a reactor and atomic energy produced in an atomic bomb: well, the word atomic itself links these concepts, so to speak.

So on the one hand there is a mechanical action, a mechanical action -- an explosion -- which took place at the station itself; and on the other hand there is the radioactivity. These concepts have to be separated now in this discussion here, because the mechanical action -- well there have been photographs in IZVESTIYA and in PRAVDA and you could look at this photograph. During wartime, there was a boy running. I saw what the explosion of a conventional aircraft bomb was like.

Something comparable happened here, but judge for yourselves: the walls remain intact, but the ceiling and the roof of the building were indeed destroyed. Alongside, 100 meters away from this set, there is the no 3 set. It is functioning perfectly normally. Quite close by, just a few meters away -- no doubt you have seen this on the photograph -- there is an enormous extraction chimney, a very high one, which is standing.

But simply from this comparison it is clear that this was on a scale of tons -- if one is to translate it into military language -- and in my view all the military people put it in terms of tons, the explosion. Whereas if we are talking about a nuclear explosion -- in Hiroshima it was 20,000 metric tons, and if we are talking about modern weapons we are talking about megatons, so of course in this respect there is nothing at all in common between them. Moreover, this has of course been provided for in the design, which is incapable -- under any conditions -- of producing a mechanical action that is comparable with that of a nuclear weapon.

And this despite the fact, moreover, that this reactor contains much more fossile fuel material than does an atomic bomb: It is reckoned in metric tons, by the way, of uranium as an active component, uranium-35, metric tons of material, whereas in bombs it is about a kilogram. And yet no nuclear explosion was able to take place. On the other hand things are different...

[Bovin, interrupting] That is as far as the mechanical effects are concerned?

[Zorin] As far as the mechanical effects are concerned.

[Feoktistov] All this has been built in in advance, all this has been provided for in the designs, so that nothing in any way similar to a nuclear explosion could ever arise. But as far as the radioactivity is concerned, the situation is more complicated. The whole thing amounts to this, that this radioactivity continues for years -- the operation of this reactor goes on for years -- and this radioactivity accumulates there. There is approximately a metric ton of fission fragments produced by the reactor per year, given the capacity, the thermal capacity of 3 gigawatts that the power station had.

[Bovin] Fragments in the sense of these radioactive isotopes which are accumulated?

[Feoktistov] Yes, yes, those are the fragments, these radioactive fragments. But they are radioactive, in other words they are decaying. EAch of them has its own time in life. Some of them die as thay are being accumulated, they decay and are turned into nonradioactive substances, and some of them, particularly those which have made their appearance just before the end, so to speak, well they live in these fuel elements. In the bomb everything happens at once. The explosion has taken place. All the fragments that were due to come into being have come into being and they have all been thrown out. But as a consequence of these different mechanisms one has to be more careful in drawing comparisons about the radioactivity. It can vary according to the changing timescale, according to the day that you choose.

But let us talk now, say, about one day, people had to be evacuated, others had to be helped, let us take 1 day. Then this discharge, according to all estimates -- we have seen many maps and have studies the whole of this radioactivity that was discharged in total, but it amounts to the equivalent of a kiloton-strong nuclear explosion -- I repeat, in terms of radioactivity. It is no small amount, so to speak, for normal, peacetime, onditions, but niether is it a fabulously large amount, particularly if we begin to set all of this alongside nuclear war.

Today our country is experiencing an enormous amount of tension, and this is mainly connection with radioactivity. And when I looked at these ruins I thought to myself that if this place had not been polluted, if it had been a conventional explosion at a conventional factory, say, then the whole cleaning-up operation, particularly given the mighty mobilization of the people's resources, then the whole of the cleaning-up operation would have been carried out within, say, 2 weeks and today there would be no trace of the damaged buildings. The whole thing is spoilt by the radioactivity. True, this is quite impossible -- and I personally simply do not have sufficient imagination for this -- but now just imagine for a minute that a million Chernobyls or something approximately on that scale, take place simultaneously, as it doubtlessly would under any scenario for nuclear war today: what would one have to do under such conditions?

[Bovin] Yes, there are things we have to think about. Lev Petrovich, excuse me for interrupting, but let me put the issue like this.

If, say, on 24 April, one of your colleagues had come up to you and drawn the picture which we are now aware of and if he had asked you what you think, how great is the likelihood of such an event, what would have said to him in reply?

[Feoktistov] I would have replied that it was a wholly unlikely event. Wholly unlikely.

[Bovin] So it really would have been so many millions to....

[Feoktistov, interrupting] Who knows? It is always difficult to express it in terms of quantities.

[Zorin] But the question is, what was it? A tragic chance happening or are things like this inevitable?

[Feoktistov] Of course, everyone today is preoccupied -- particularly people of impatient disposition, so to speak -- all are preoccupied with getting a precise answer to the question of what really happened there? Naturally this is a question, but to some extent it is illogical. Why? Because if the cause was such a simple one, lying on the surface, then of course it would in advance...[Feoktistov changes thought] and what is more these possible versions of every possible accident are played through, they are studied under experimental conditions and the automatic systems and the control systems of the reactor are made in such a way that incidents that are so enormous in their consequences may never happen under any conditions whatsoever. Yet nevertheless they do take place. I would say only that this is not a special privilege of atomic power engineering. They happen everywhere.

[Bovin] Take the Challenger, for example.

[Feoktistov] Challenger blows up. Chemical plants blow up with enormous consequences. There have been many cases, and when Mikhail Gorbachev spoke a few days ago, he also mentioned all sorts of accidents, including ones at atomic power stations, which also led to escapes of radioactivity and people being killed. Whenever there is any sophisticated technology it is very difficult to foresee all the possible combinations, all the reasons why things happen -- and here there was evidently some complex reason, some overlapping things. So it is very difficult, although I think that many of those involved still think it is their direct duty to disentangle the puzzle and find out the reason, so as to ensure at least that it does not happen again. But it is no easy matter, it really will require time, and perhaps a substantial amount of time.

[Zorin] Thank you. Well, we have already mentioned how bourgeois propaganda has made malicious use of what has happened. It so happened that Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich Bovin at that time was in the United States and saw this campaign with his own eyes, as they say, and I would like our viewers to hear about this campaign firsthand. Could tell us about it please, Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich?

[Bovin] Well, I have already written a little about it in my newspaper IZVESTIYA. The thing is, comrades, that I had professional contacts with the U.S. mass media there virtually every day, reading articles, reviewing television and radio braodcasts, so I do have some idea about it. But what I wan then in early May was simply monstrous. It was monstrous because there was the gossip, the rumors and the lies and the way it was all put was...[Bovin changes thought] Of course, you know, there were words of sympathy -- that has to be said right away, yes they did say: We sympathize -- but after that the whole tone, the style, the very way in which the material was presented, everything was done so as to arouse mistrust towards us -- towards the Russians, as they would say -- to arouse hostility and ill will. Everything was aimed at that.

Of course we felt it more acutely than the Americans because it was, after all, our misfortune, our people, and we thought about this all the time. But the Americans danced some sort of monstrous dance around it on television and the radio. So, disregarding this and crying wolf, we got the banner headlines such as "15,000 Buried in a Mass Grave," "Ukraine and Kiev Almost Emptied." And all this was presented completely seriously, with such passion. Two days later it became clear that this is what everyone said, but they said it with blatant disbelief, in such a tone that somehow it was a pity: They wanted, if not, 15,000 or 10,000 then at least 2,000, but the figure of just two people that did not survive somehow hurt their feelings.

Then of course afterwards we had those monstrous clouds, with the maps being trotted out on television showing the radioactive clouds in red covering first northern Europe, then southern Europe, then the cloud crossed the whole Soviet Union, caught a slight hold over Japan, went on to Alaska and then to America. But virtually nothing was said about the fact that the whole of this travel was absolutely harmless for people in most areas: They just tried to frighten people, and frighten them all the time.

True, to be fair, I should say that there were other sentiments. Take this scene, for example. In one of the farming states, I do not remember which, they showed an enormous field, the farmers plowing on their tractors, then the correspondent enters a sort of canteen where the farmers are sitting and says to them: This accident in Chernobyl has evidently contaminated all the food produce, so the prices on the world market for your produce will rise; this should be good for you, should it not? And suddenly one of the farmers replies quite firmly to the correspondent: We have absolutely no wish to make a profit out of someone else's misfortune. He calls one of his friends over to the table and this man says exactly the same. So what I am trying to say is that against the backdrop of this overall wave of anti-Soviet propaganda, normal people did in fact react in a normal way as they should.

[Zorin] Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich, but what about the officials, the official representatives of the administration?

[Bovin] Well the officials, of course, did not have the loose, free and easy attitude of the commentators, for example, but there was all the time the sort of persistent approach that first and foremost we were not given all the information. As you know there was a special statement made in Tokyo by the "Seven". A special statement appeared on the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power station whose theme was, as Mikhail Sergeyevich said, that we had not given them all the information. After that, though, over the past few days, all this has started to drop off slightly because, well, just how long can you go on spinning out outrageous stories like that. It was simply somehow just immoral -- and that is the most accurate word to describe it, not in political terms, but in human ones. It was simply immoral, everything that was shown on American television, in particular, about Chernobyl.

[Zorin] What Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich has said, and what we know from the Western press today, in particular the American press which has recently been publishing and continues to publish a great deal of material, is evidence of extremely malicious attempts to exaggerate beyond all bounds the radioactive danger now existing. Lev Petrovich, what in reality is the situation in this regard?

[Fektistov] The situation is very serious and difficult in the immediate vicinity of the power station. But it is there that all our efforts are concentrated on eliminating these consequences. But I would not want to exaggerate the danger here. For instance, for Kiev the figure being mentioned is 0.3 milliroentgens per hour. That is the radioactivity currently existing in Kiev.

[Bovin] But is that a large or small amount? What would you compare it with?

[Feoktistov] I just wanted to explain this, Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich; I was just on the point of explaining. Normally, to obtain some kind of idea -- and I think this is the form in which the various types of health and safety standards are formulated, as far as I can remember -- the measurements are put on an annual basis. Now, if you multiply 0.3 milliroentgens per hour by the number of hours in a year, you get less than five roentgens. And as far as I am aware, when you have a dental X-ray -- and I would say that in one way or another everyone undergoes an x-ray roughly once a year, an x-ray of one sort or another -- you also get a dose of something like this.

[Zorin] Of the same order?

[Feoktistov] Well, it is not so much of the same order, but, simply, if you are undergoing a complex x-ray examination of the stomach, say, they will turn you around a great number of times, they will turn on the machine once, they will turn it on again, you get dozens of these roentgens.

[Bovin] While the normal level is five roentgens a year.

[Feoktistov] Now you must not forget such a simple thing as the fact that this radioactivity will of course be falling and that we are talking about a projection based on today's radioactivity if people live there in those conditions. That is why this perceptibly exceeds, this exceeds tens of times the background level to which people have become accustomed. Incidentally, speaking in cosmic terms, the background to which we have become accustomed -- and if you take Moscow, the radioactive conditions there have remained practically unchanged -- this background, if you draw comparisons, fluctuates from point to point. For instance, if you go up into the mountains, particularly if, God forbid, there is a certain amount of uranium in these mountains -- and uranium is scattered more or less everywhere -- and if radon, a produt of the decay of uranium, has accumulated there, then the level can be ten, and even somewhat more, times as high, and yet people live there quite happily, and, as one knows, people who live at high altitudes live even longer lives than other people. So as far as these increases of the order of tens of times are concerned, I think that in the earth's evolution cataclysms occurred when the background strayed by tens of times and this of course is all without significance. And for anyone who has encountered these things in the course of his work, these figures which are now being mentioned -- and, I repeat, this is apart from the immediate environs of the power station -- these figures make no impression, I repeat that these levels of radiation in the region of 0.3 roentgens [as heard] per hour present, in my view, absolutely no danger to man, or even to a large number of people. That is what I think.

[Zorin] Nikita Nikolayevich, you have been involved with the problem of nuclear blasts in general terms. You have been involved in this as a mathematician and a scientist. I should like to ask how you assess the aftermath of the accident, in connection with which bourgeois propaganda is causing so much obfuscation.

[Moiseyev] Yes indeed, in recent years, in 1983 and 1984, a whole group of workers at our computer center carried out very successful research into the possible climatic consequences of nuclear strikes and the fires which, primarily, they would cause. And of course, given the kinds of approach which are currently being worked out by people working in information science and engaged in the creation of models of complex phenomena occurring in nature -- these phenomena can of course be analyzed quantitatively in advance.

In the broadcast by Mikhail Sergeyevich which we heard on Wendesday evening he spoke about the harsh truth of the nuclear age. We really have entered an age in which we find in our hands increasinglay complex and dangerous technology. And life advances in such a way that all the time we are finding ourselves capable of making use of the ever-greater and ever-stronger hidden forces of nature.

At one time, probably, fire too was dangerous, when our distant cave-dwelling ancestor learnt to make use of it. But people learned to use fire. In the same way people must learn to use the nuclear forces which nature has provided. And it is not yet known what we shall come up against in the future, what still-hidden forces of nature we will find in our hands. We must be prepared for this, because we really are entering an age of totally new technologies and new possibilities. And we must be prepared for this.

One of the important points here, it seems to me, is that these flashpoints obviously need to be under the unremitting control of international organizations. In particular, Mikhail Sergeyevich spoke about the need to extend the work of the IAEA. No doubt, that is not all. Many of our specialists and foreign specialists must have good methods for analyzing the potential consequences. It seems to me from the viewpoint of the experience which we have acquired over recent years that it could be possible to assess in advance the possible consequences both of the spread of clouds and the nature of radioactive fallout and it is probable that people could know in advance that if something happens, then this area is dangerous, and this area is not.

[Bovin] You have in mind every atomic power station?

[Moiseyev] I am profoundly convinced that...[Moiseyev changes thought] But I am not using the word power station deliberately here. What about bomb dumps? And take the following possibility: Lev Petrovich has said that physicists and engineeers have not admitted the possibility of heat-emitting elements being destroyed. However, that is what has happened. Why then must we dismiss the possibility that, for some reason, I do not know, including internatioal terrorism, say some nuclear munitions store near Frankfurt goes up in smoke, what would happen then? People ought to know these things. And what is needed here is not only international cooperation and international publicity. People living in various countries must expect what might be about to happen. And as for us and our obligations as researchers and our obligations as people engaged in science and physics, as specialists in the area of physics and information technology, then we must always be ready in all of life's events, to give an answer in good time.

That is what I would like to say regarding consequences.

[Zorin] I have a question which I would like to ask you, Lev Petrovich. Now then of late the pages of the world's press have been publishing hitherto suppressed information, information which has not always and in any case not fully, reached the average international public. What I have in mind are the facts about various types of accidents at nuclear power stations in the United States, Britain, and other Western countries. Well, in particular, just the other day an influential congressman, one Edward Markey, who is a member of the opposition to the Reagan administration, published a report from the official U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission which lists the 12 most serious accidents ot have occurred this very year involving U.S. nuclear reactors, that is accidents about which the public was not informed in the necessary way. And so all these facts as well as the accident at our nuclear power station have fuelled an international discussioin about the future of nuclear power engineering and furthermore, people who are opposed to the construction of nuclear power stations have become more active.

So that would you say in connection with this?

[Feoktistov] Most probably that sort of negative background in connection with the Chernobyl accident really will come about and that will be very sad in the final anaylsis. That is my opinion, because accidents and unforeseen events with serious consequences are characteristic not only of nuclear power stations but also of any kind of complex production process.

For example I saw a film, a television film. It was a television film from Mexico. You will probably remember that about 2 years ago there was a very big fire near Mexico City itself at some sort of gas distribution works. The fire was accidental and it was accompanied by explosions and all this led to a large number of casualties and enormous destruction within a radius of approximately 1 kilometer.

So then, maybe we ought not to build chemical plants. Well in that case maybe people in general should not go outside onto the street because in so doing they run the risk of all kinds of road and other accidents. There is danger there too. And so here one has to understand more or less clearly somehow -- and this is a purely economic aspect which has been studied for a long time incidentally -- that the well-being of man, even taken as an individual, is proportional to the amount of energy produced per head of population. The more energy you produce the more your well-being will be improved as a result.

And therefore one can talk about seeking some sort of alternative approaches to energy production. Well if you are worried about improving well-being you are obliged to be concerned by questions of energy production.

And according to the views prevailing today, and which I think are generally accepted, there is no serious alternative to atomic thermonuclear energy. Well, people talk about solar energy but it is very diffuse and as yet it is bankrupt, at least from the economic point of view, and demands enormous areas, so to speak, in order to trap this diffuse energy and transform it immediately into steam to turn some sort of motor.

Besides, the point is not only that organic fuel is becoming exhausted but from the ecological point of view it is very bad. On the one hand it consumes an enormous quantity of oxygen and on the other hand it churns out approximately the same amount of carbon dioxide. That then is the greenhouse effect.

At the same time there is a lot of soot and dust and dirt involved. Of course steps are being taken and of course all governments are concerned, so to speak, about the ecological purity of any sort of production. International requirements on this score are being formulated and nontheless we know, and you know this especially well, there is still acid rain.

[Moiseyev] Yes indeed, I wanted to say that that is an international phenomenon, you understand. I mean, in the final analysis, good coal which gives off very little of these bad chemical compounds into the atmospohere -- this coal is already finished and now we are compelled to use coal which gives off huge amounts of all sorts of harmful components into the atmosphere.

[Bovin] You mean nuclear power is much cleaner from the ecological point of view?

[Moiseyev] Undoubtedly, undoubtedly.

[Feoktistov] What is more, let me tell you...

[Bovin, interrupting] This background radiation. Does it not accumulate, so to speak, gradually? I read that somewhere....

[Feoktistov, interrupting] Yes indeed that is just what I wanted to tell you. What is more, the earth and coal also contain radioactive substances. They are long-living ones which have been preserved in the earth. They have been there throughout the formation of the earth right up to our time. And nonetheless there are radioactive substances in the earth. They are present in coal. And so when you burn coal, is it not strange, you also get a small release, a release of radioactivity.

And so the modern day condition of a nuclear power station in a normal state is that according to all accepted standards it releases less radioactivity than a coal station. I am talking purely about radioactivity and not about all the rest.

[Bovin] And how stands the problem of the waste? Opponents of atomic power generation very often make use of the fact that this waste has to be gotten rid of somewhere -- it is accumulated somewhere and that, too, is a source of danger. Is this a real problem?

[Feoktistov] This is a real problem. It is a complex technological problem. Approaches are being sought to it. Essentially it is now being stored in rocks of different kinds, sometimes it is being vitrified, this mass, and it is received in that form. But generally speaking this problem does exist. The mass can be accepted only if a means is found -- and from the technical point of view it does exist though perhaps there still is work to be done -- to ensure that no radioactivity can ever, even after millions of years -- because the fragments do include fragments which live for millions of years, unfortunately, if we want to worry about the future generations then we are under an obligation to make provision for this, too -- to ensure that this solution is not subjected to any dissolving action in the earth over millions of years, so that this radioactivity does not get anywhere.

[Zorin] I believe that what you have been saying is very important, Lev Petrovich, because the attitude toward what has happened now is so sharpened, indeed, and so emotional; but the development of technology has always been accompanied by emotional outbursts of this kind, by fears. After all, when they developed the railways and the first rail crashes took place statements were issued saying that there had to be a return to horse traction and that railways should not be built.

[Moiseyev] It happened with the automobile; a law was passed in Britain saying that someone carrying a flag had to run in front of a car.

[Zorin] Yes, yes. So overall, here, in looking at what happened in a completely serious way, at the same time, evidently, one ought not to get things out of perspective and out of proportion.

The accident in the atomic reactor at the Chernobyl atomic power station reminds people once again of the stern realities of the nuclear age. Nikita Nikolayevich, by virtue of your activities you are engaged in the overall aspects of this problem. What can you say in this connection?

[Moiseyev] Indeed, there are many dangers. They often lie hidden in unexpected places and this nuclear age is now placing very special demands and requirements upon science. We must indeed learn to make forecasts in advance, because the cost of every mistake is very high.

And on the other hand we have to be able to draw a definite lesson from every difficulty and from every misfortune. It seemed to me that the Chernobyl accident, a misfortune for all of us, must serve as a lesson not just for ourselves -- for ourselves, of course, it will serve as a lesson, for our people; our specialists will long be engaged on it and in a proper way -- but it must serve as a lesson for the whole world, too.

Today we are linked much more than we ever were. Just think for a second about the fact that the Gulf of Mexico, where quite a lot of oil is produced, will today be covered by a monomolecular film as a consequence of pollution, but for a relatively short time. And totally new manifestations, linked with the structure of the Gulf Stream, with the exchange of energy between the atmosphere and the ocean, are now going to make their appearance and Europe is going to feel this immediately, Europe first and foremost.

In order to stress the way this is linked I would give the following example. We not only register without difficulty every explosion that is carried out in Nevada, we even register changes in the atmospheric mechanism in Moscow which is the result of an underground explosion in Nevada. So, understand just how small our planet is today and tied into a single knot by its problems. And here, what Mikhail Sergeyevich said in his television appearance on Wednesday is a most necessary condition for man's survival upon earth. International cooperation in science is essental; thorough international work on studying the possibilities that mankind has at its disposal is essential, as is the raising of the reliability of all this equipment, of all that is being place into our hands today.

Mikhail Sergeyevich named the IAFA and named the United Nations. I was a participant in a SCOPE program -- an international organization linked with the ecological consequences of nuclear war. This work was extraordinarly effective. Documents were issued that added up the results of a whole series of important work carried out in different countries. It seems to me that this path, involving such large international programs, ought to be expanded.

There exist not only these international organizations already mentioned, but many others, like the Life Institute, a letter from the chaiman of which Mikhail Sergeyevich sent a reply -- as you know. As you remember, I would say it was a very friendly reply. Cooperation in different research is also possible within the framework of this institute: After all, the institute is aimed at the prevention of all those dangers that are presented to life on this planet by technology and its development. Today much has already been done for this and I think that it is essential for scientists to show more initiative, because scientists must find a common dialogue among themselves -- one that does not have the poisonous sting of propaganda and speculation that are made on the basis of all manner of difficulties.

[Feoktistov] There is a point that I would like to make...

[Zorin, interrupting] Yes, yes.

[Feoktistov] Something that Nikita Nikolayevich has just reminded me about, something that I had in mind. You know the connection that exist between countries, or between events that take place. Take the underground nuclear explosions being conducted by the Americans that we just mentioned. Xanon, or radioactive noble gases, enter the atmosphere, right? They do not come from a reactor, you know, which is above ground and covered by a roof but nothing else, do they?

It takes place perhaps 200 meters under the earth, deep down. The test takes place and radioactive gas escapes -- radioactive gas that 10,000 kilometers away, when the wind blows in the right direction, starts to be definitely registered somewhere around Moscow.

[Zorin] In connection with what we have been saying, I find it an amazing and, to put it bluntly, a worrying fact that the West, where both officials and propaganda have stirred up a very big campaign, is focusing attention on the explosion at the Chernobyl AES [Atomic Energy Station], while at the same time they fail to mention the enormous quantity of nuclear charges in the world's nuclear arsenals, prentending that the fact does not exist, pretending that the situation whereby the world literally lives on this -- not powder keg -- but atomic keg does not exist. Everything is brought down to this tragic, but individual case, and bourgeois officials are trying to avoid making any conclusions and trying to detract public opinion. I would like to ask you, Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich, to speak on this subject, because what has just happened stresses yet again very vividly the fact that people are living in a nuclear age and are coming up against things connected with that age; and of course the consequences of what happened in Chernobyl will also have an effect in the area of international politics. Could you give us your point of view on this?

[Bovin] Well, you have in fact formulated the essence of the matter correctly. We really are sitting on top of this nuclear keg and this is not the best situation for mankind to find itself in. So what happens in the Ukraine, the escape of radioactivity, has enabled us once more to make an assessment of the most vital problem in politics today, bringing it out more clearly -- the problem of nuclear disarmament. And precisely in the light of what happened in the Ukraine, our persistent policy of demanding nuclear disarmament shows itself ever more to be the actual embodiment of real humanism in our time, because it's impossible to devise anything else. Perhaps some alternative to atomic energy may be devised -- I don't know -- but there is no alternative that you can devise for nuclear disarmament. So all the proposals that we have made remain in force, and we will be continuing to pursue this line because, I repeat, there's no alternative to it.

There are many issues here, but let's take specifically a problem which, it would seem, is as close to a solution as it could be, that is, the problem of banning nuclear tests. Think how many times talks have been held. Agreements have been signed that unfortunately the Americans have not ratified. A lot has been done. Just a few steps are left to be taken and if the Americans had the political will there would be no problem here: It would be possible to reach agreement.

What in fact does a nuclear explosion entail? Recently THE WASHINGTON POST reported that during these tests there were 97 escapes of radioactive gases, even though they also take all sorts of precautionary measures. But even that is not the main thing. The banning of nuclear explosions and nuclear weapons tests is a very real path towards, perhaps not reducing nuclear arsenals, but putting a brake on the arms race. And how many times have the Americans said: no, no, no, no -- yet we have taken yet another noble and courageous step by extending our nuclear moratorium to 6 August, although I'm not very sure that our military comrades are happy about it, so to speak, because they have their own problems and their own concerns, and this is quite understandable. But from the point of view of the overall political situation this decision was, of course, absolutely correct.

And it once again gives America a choice, so to speak. Again, there you are, take your choice, we are giving you the opportunity. But what do the Americans do? It's simply -- well, I just do not know what to call it. First of all, they kept going on about monitoring -- monitoring, monitoring, monitoring, monitoring.

Now, however, the situation seems to be such that there is a possibility of reaching agreement on monitoring. Then what do they say: While nuclear weapons exist, we will carry out tests. But our logic is that in order to create the conditions for reducing those weapons, the tests must be banned. They turn everything upside down.

Weinberger recently said this: When we put our "star wars" program into operation and we correspondingly make atomic weapons obsolete, then we will neogtiate on banning nuclear weapons. Well, what sort of logic is this? Everything is turned inside out. And all this hullaballo being made about the Chernobyl accident -- while it is difficult to talk about the intention, of course -- looks like a sort of smokescreen to distract people from what really are the most urgent questions, the problems, I repeat, of nuclear disarmament.

[Moiseyev] Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich, you know there's some logic here that I can't follow. A tragic event has happened and it would seem that it should teach people something. We have already spoken about the comparison with a nuclear war and so forth, and it would seem that man, including every American, should simply stop and think: Where are we going, what are we doing? So why, then, is the Chernobyl accident itself being used, why is it being marshalled into propaganda to urge people to continue arming? Where is the logic here?

[Bovin] That in fact is the logic of, if you like, imperialist policy. It's all along the same lines. If they don't want, for example, to end nuclear tests, if they don't want real disarmament, if they actually want to launch the arms race into space, if they have put together an enormous program for modernizing their weapons -- then within the framework of that logic, for them what happened in Chernobyl is of course no reason to change their views, but on the contrary it spurs them on to take such action. In the context of their approach it's all understandable. Why should they use Chernobyl against themselves? In your opinion, yes, Chernobyl should make us work more actively toward disarmament. Yes, that's your logic, but for them...

[Feoktistov, interrupting] I want to say that this is the logic of a normal person.

[Bovin] Yes, that's right, the logic of a normal being. But they have their own logic. And what's advantageous is that which works in favor of their policy and that is the policy of the arms race.

[Moiseyev] I understand my colleague very well indeed, because it is simply impossible for a normal Soviet person to understand this logic.

[Bovin] Yes, I am completely in agreement with that.

[Zorin] And continuing our deliberations on this topic I want to return to this propaganda compaign. Instead of thinking over some serious measures, instead of drawing serious conclusions requiring new thinking and the ability to think in terms of the realities of our day, a petty, ugly, uncivilized propaganda campaign is being undertaken with the object of scoring some kind of propaganda points.

I think that this campaign was prepared independently of the Chernobyl tragedy. It was prepared before that happened. The Americans, by all accounts, felt a need for grounds of some kind for developing this kind of campaign. We know of similar cases.

Remember how, at the end of the seventies certain circles in the United States came out against the SALT II treaty which had already been signed in Vienna and there was nothing at hand for them to use: Some story was invented about a mythical Soviet military brigade in Cuba, this was developed into an improbable campaign, with the help of which the ratification of the treaty did not take place. Incidentally, it is curious that since then they have found other grounds for anti-Soviet propaganda campaigns and that is why in the last 5 or 6 years there has not been a single mention in the United States of this mythical brigade in Cuba: And so they forgot about it.

In the present instance too, one gets the impression that they were waiting for grounds to start a campaign of this kind. And what is involved here is not just the absence of some kind of civilized manners or an understanding of the fact that you must not dance at misfortune, you must not gloat when something like this occurs, but there is also a definite political design here.

The United States has of late found itself totally on the political defensive. The Soviet Union is advancing one constructive proposal after another -- proposals that are meeting with the understanding and support of broad circles of the international public. And, every time, the world hears --no! no! no! -- from Washington. In these circumstances an attempt has evidently been made to make use of the misfortune that has happened in our country to whip up an anti-Soviet campaign, to engender mistrust towards the Soviet Union, to generate some kind of anti-Soviet sentiments and deflect the attention of the international public from this stance of Washington's.

Summing up the general political conclusions that must be drawn form the Chernobyl tragedy, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev stressed: We understand that this is yet another ring of the bell, another stern warning that the nuclear age requires fresh political thinking and fresh policies. This has strengthened even further our conviction that the foreign policy course worked out by the 27th CPSU Congress is correct and that our proposals for the full elimination of nuclear weapons, the halting of nuclear blasts, and for the creation of a comprehensive system of international security are in line with the implacably stern demands that the nuclear age places on the political leadership of all countries.

And that is what we have been talking about today, that is what people in the whole world are thinking about today. Our airtime has run out. It remains for me to thank you for taking part in the discussion, to thank our viewers for their attention and to bid them farewell until our next meeting here in our 'Studio Nine.' Thank you.

PRAVDA ON CIVILIAN, MILITARY LESSONS OF CHERNOBYL

PM161700 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 May First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Guided by Mankind's Interests"]

[Text Scientific and technical progress has opened up unprecedented development possibilities for mankind. Nuclear energy occupies an outstanding place among scientific and technical achievements. When placed at the service of peaceful objectives it facilitates the possibility of creating the material conditions for the flourishing of society. At the same time the class egoism of imperialist circles can transform it into a source of incalculable calamities, as the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki graphically showed.

The nuclear age makes special demands of governments and peoples. Along the path of taming the atom man can expect, along with outstanding achievements, unexpected occurrences and even misfortunes, as has repeatedly happened at a number of countries' nuclear power stations in recent years.

A misfortune of this kind also overtook us at the Chernobyl AES. Speaking on Soviet television on 14 May, M.S. Gorbachev frankly and comprehensively elucidated the Chernobyl accident.

Our people's courageous actions and the prompt and vigours measures taken by the Soviet Government met with the requisite understanding in the world as a whole. The Soviet people are deeply grateful to the friends from socialist and other countries who have displayed their solidarity with us in our hour of difficult trials.

At the same time the attitude displayed toward what happened at Chernobyl was a kind of litmus test for demonstrating the positions of the circles that set the political tone in a number of Western countries. As is well known, an unbridled anti-Soviet campaign and shameful speculation on the misfortune have been blown up in Western countries, primarily the United States and also the FRG. Powerful mass media vying with each other to see who can concoct the most fairy tales and who can cause the most fear have been mobilized in the service of this ignoble cause. This dishonest and malevolent fuss is disguised by a veil of sham "concern for people," "alarm about their health," and "anxiety about the shortage of information." In reality what the organizers of this hysteria have in mind is something quite different having nothing to do either with people's health or with information.

The entire history of our state testifies that the Soviet Union's enemies have no means that they would not use in their attempts to besmirch our country. These attempts have particularly intensified recently.

The most burning question of the age is averting the threat of nuclear war, the danger of which is caused by the policy of adventurist circles of imperialism, primarily American imperialism. And it is precisely from the Soviet Union that the world's peoples receive a clear and exhaustive answer to how to avert this threat.

A tremendous impression was made on the peoples by the specific and realistic program for freeing the planet of nuclear, chemical, and other weapons of mass destruction by the year 2000 spelled out in the well-known Soviet statement of 15 January this year. Exceptional interest was generated everywhere by the CPSU and Soviet state course confirmed by the Leninist party's 27th congress aimed at completely eliminating nuclear weapons, ending nuclear explosions, and creating an all-embracing international security system. The anti-Soviets and anticommunists would very much like to divert the peoples' attention from the large-scale Soviet peace initiatives.

One of the main objectives of the propaganda sabbath in Western countries lies precisely in attempting to use what has happened at Chernobyl to erect more obstacles in the way of the development and deepening of dialogue between East and West, which is already progressing with difficulty -- not through our fault. The scheme harbored by the circles behind this campaign is to sow new seeds of mistrust and suspicion toward the socialist countries and thereby obtain an opportunity to open even wider the door to further war preparations. Their course was demonstrated once again at the Tokyo meeting of the leaders of the seven leading capitalist countries.

The Soviet Union draws a different, fundamentally opposite conclusion from the accident that has occurred. The USSR considers that not only the Chernobyl AES accident but also the dangerous incidents at a number of other countries' nuclear power stations set all states extremely important questions requiring a serious and responsible attitude. The USSR proposes the immediate [uzheseychas] implementation of a number of specific steps, primarily in the area of a substantial depening of cooperation within the framework of the IAEA. It must not be forgotten that, in addition to the problems of the peaceful atom, there also exist the problems of the military atom. In the light of the Chernobyl accident it has become even clearer what an abyss would open up if a nuclear war were to overtake mankind.

The USSR is again setting an example of a constructive attitude to most acute problems of the age. Having weighed all the circumstances linked with the security of both its own people and the whole of mankind, the Soviet Government has adopted a decision to extend its unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests until 6 August this year. The USSR again calls on the United States to weigh with all responsibility the extent of the danger hanging over mankind and to heed the view of the world community. If certain circles in Washington are really concerned for people's life and health they are being presented with an opportunity to demonstrate it in practice.

The CPSU Central Committee general secretary reiterated his proposal to the U.S. President to meet without delay in the capital of any European state or, for example, in Hiroshima, and reach agreement on a nuclear test ban.

The nuclear age insistently demands a new approach to international relations and thepooling of the efforts of states with different social systems for the sake of ending the arms race and radically improving the world political climate. All the people of the world would benefit from this. Such is the position of the CPSU, the Soviet state, and our entire people, a position that is clear and does not brook misinterpretation.

WPC ISSUES STATEMENT ON CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT

LD161815 Moscow TASS in English 1744 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Helsinki May 16 TASS -- The World Peace Council issued today the following press statement:

Since it was created 25 years ago the World Peace Council has been constantly appealing to public opinion to understand the profound danger of the nuclear threat facing humanity and to combine the efforts of all peoples and states to save life on earth. The accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, tragic in itself, is a reminder of the all-embracing and irreversibly disastrous consequences of the use of the arsenals of nuclear weapons in a nuclear war.

The World Peace Council appeals to the heads of all states and governments, parliamentarians, leaders of political parties and trade unions, religious and cultural personalities, and peace movements around the world to realize the realities of the nuclear age and take immediate action to halt the nuclear arms race. In view of the existence of the huge stockpiles of nuclear armaments, it is suicidal for any political leader, and deadly dangerous for all humanity to rely on force and moreover to use force in international relations. The decision of the USSR to prolong its unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing till August 6 of this year offers the world a concrete opportunity to initiate the process of nuclear disarmament, frozen until now because of the stubborn position of the U.S. Administration and their Western allies.

The World Peace Council is of the opinion that the new proposals by Mr. M. Gorbachev on May 14th pave the way for enhancing international cooperation for the purpose of security in the development of peaceful use of atomic energy. We reject the attempts to switch the attention of world public opinion from such vital issues as halting nuclear tests, eliminating nuclear and chemical weapons, limiting conventional weapons, etc. to the Chernobyl accident and speculation and falsehoods about it. The World Peace Council expresses its sincere condolences to all those who suffered as a result of the disaster in Chernobyl and to all the Soviet people.

REPORTAGE ON U.S. REACTION TO CHERNOBYL

Gorbachev Address Noted

LD161747 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 16 May 86

[Aleksandr Zholkver commentary]

[Text] Here to comment on reactions abroad to Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's address on Soviet television is Political Observer Aleksandr Zholkver:

Let me remark first of all that the statements by both prominent political figures and well-known publicists show that the address has attracted attention particularly because of the scale of the problems it has addressed: Problems which truly concern all of mankind. As one veteran of U.S. politics, Armand Hammer, put it, the greatest impression was made by the philosophical conclusions of the Soviet leader; that the nuclear age imperiously demands a fresh approach to international problems and joint efforts by states of different social systems in the name of stopping the disastrous arms race and radically improving the world's political climate.

Let me say straight away that these conclusions have by no means had a universally favorable reception. The White House, for instance, remains anxious to shrug them off. There, they have lost no time in declaring that the administration rejects the reiterated proposal that the United States join the Soviet Moratorium on nuclear explosions. Yet I would not be inclined to regard such statements as final and irreversible. America clearly does not consist only of hawks and that is strikingly confirmed by reactions in the United States to Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's address. Of the countless miltitude of comments, I will mention just two. The leader of the American Hiroshima-Nagasaki Committee, John Steinbach, has said he is ashamed of the way the U.S. administration and the mainstream press have exaggerated the scale of the disaster at Chernobyl and distorted the facts. Yes, on this occasion the reaction really has amounted to nothing less than a veritable piling up of the most shameless lies -- not stopping at actual forgery, as when U.S. television showed film of smog in Trieste and claimed it was the blaze at Chernobyl. On the other hand, the world-famous American cardiologist, Professor Lown, who is one of the Co-chairman of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, points out that the mist of lies will, in the end, disperse; and that the public demand for a curb on the nuclear arms race will become more insistent, insofar as people are coming to realize more and more clearly that even an accident with one nuclear missile could have far worse consequences than Chernobyl. To that I would add that, judging by reports coming in now from literally all over the world, it is not just the Americans who believe this, but people in many different countries. The tragedy at Chernobyl is seen as one more alarm bell -- one more grim warning that the nuclear age demands a new kind of political thought and a new policy. The address by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and our country's new peace initiatives which he propounded, are seen in the world as a manifestation both of such thought and of such a policy.

Media/'Propaganda' Cited

LD172054 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1645 GMT 17 May 86

[From the "International Diary" program, presented by Vyacheslav Lavrentyev]

[Text] It is well known that Washington officialdom took upon itself the role of conductor in the anti-Soviet campaign organized in connection with the accident at Chernobyl. What propagandistic dividends is the U.S. Administration trying to reap from all this? I asked our correspondent in New York, Vladimir Gerasichev, to respond to this question.

[Gerasichev] I think that the newspaper DAILY WORLD answered that question correctly, stressing that the Reagan administration and certain governments among its West European NATO allies are striving to turn this campaign into a cold war instrument and to use it as a screen that would help them avoid a constructive discussion of problems connected with arms control. The U.S. reaction to the decision of the Soviet Government to extend the nuclear test moratorium until 6 August entirely confirmed this. The Reagan administration, THE NEW YORK TIMES reported, has once against rejected Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal that the United States join the moratorium on underground nuclear tests.

Meanwhile, it has become known that during the conducting of nuclear explosions on the test range in Nevada a large amount of radioactive dust regularly enters the atmosphere. Mikeo Keko, physicist and university professor, made a statement about this in New York. The family of Professor Keko, along with tens of thousands of other Japanese, perished in Hiroshima as a result of the explosion of a U.S. atomic bomb. As a scientist and specialist and a man who has experienced the horror of an atomic bomb, Keko well understands the consequences that the continuation of nuclear weapons tests, and the White House's disregard for the destiny of its fellow citizens and of the people of neighboring countries, may lead to.

Of course, far from everyone in the United States has been blinded by the starry glitter that U.S. propaganda is directing about the Strategic Defense Initiative. In answer to the speech of Comrade Gorbachev, Congressman Edward Markey stated that through legislation he intends to propose withdrawing the money allocated for the U.S. program of underground nuclear explosions put forward. He was supported by congressional members Patricia Schroeder, Thomas Downey, and others.

[Lavrentyev] This is already the umpteenth time that the U.S. administration has been skillfully manipulating public opinion. Why does it succeed in doing this?

[Gerasichev] People liketo argue about liberty and the independence of the press here in the United States. However, argument is theory, and it is a different matter in practice. During the work of the 27th CPSU Congress, one major television station permitted itself to display a little more independence than it was entitled to, and immediately there was an outcry from the White House. The television station was obliged to curtail its reporting on the congress and to recall its correspondents from Moscow.

There is one more reason. The White House does not always crudely shut up one newspaper or another, or radio or television stations that go too far in what they broadcast. Often the irrepressible thirst for sesation is used by the U.S. media, along with the harsh, indestructible competition between them. Washington not only organizes the anti-Soviet campaign of lies and inventions, but also throws in this same invention in the form of hints, innuendoes, and unchecked information. The competing newspapers whip up these hints into mountains of inventions. In so doing, they argue roughly along these lines: If I do not do this, my competitor will, and my newspaper's circulation, along with its income, may suffer. And so, fraternal graves, tens of thousands of people dead in the Ukraine, and other inventions appear on the pages of the newspaper. Because of this, the Americans themselves call the reporting on the Chernobyl accident by the U.S. press mean and shameful.

U.S. Organizes Hysteria

LD170710 Moscow TASS in English 0704 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 17 TASS -- The Chernobyl accident has been deliberately and tendentiously made use of in the West for the purposes of stirring up hatred for the Soviet Union and undermining the atmosphere of trust and cooperation, Vladimir Katin, a political news analyst, writes in "SELSKAYA ZHIZN" (RURAL LIFE) today.

"The experience of these days has shown," he points out, "that anti-Soviet hysteria is organised and directed from the United States. And the matter is not at all in the accident at the nuclear power station. Militarist circles in the United States are aware that world public opinion firmly demands that nuclear tests be done away with and that nuclear weapons be eliminated altogether. This is what the Soviet Union calls for. Herein are the true causes of the outpouring of lies, fabrications and jugglings with the facts concerning the Chernobyl accident".

"A natural question arises in this connection: Can the United States be trusted? The question arose by no means today. There have been lots of instances when the United States violated its own commitments as well as agreements, conventions and treaties signed by it. For example, Washington has repeatedly violated the U.N. Charter. The fresh example of that has been provided by the aggression against sovereign Libya. The United States has also more than once violated the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference."

"The developments at the Chernobyl nuclear power station have brought up the question with fresh vigour and, I would say, from a new angle," the news analyst emphasizes.

Propaganda 'Diverts' Real Issues

LD180145 Moscow World Service in English 2200 GMT 17 May 86

["Moscow Viewpoint" by Observer Valentin Zorin]

[Text] When I met with Americans visiting Moscow at the moment I tried to find out what they really knew about the accident at the Chernobyl AES. Unfortunately, my conclusion was that most Americans are still unaware of the true facts about the accident, having been misled once again by another anti-Soviet campaign. Since the very beginning, the American public has become exposed to a whole spate of misinformation and outright lies carried by the media and voiced by government officials. Suffice it to recall the first reports that the U.S. media carried right after the accident. These reports allege that 2,000 poeople died, that there was panic in Kiev, and that the high level of radiation posed a threat to millions in the USSR and other countries.

Now what was the actual situation? There were no massive casualties; 9 people have died, 299 are in hospital. American and other Wetern correspondents who visited Kiev reported no panic and said that life in the city, where a major international sporting event took place, was normal. The levels of radiation in the European countries, let alone those beyond Europe, have not reached dangerous limits. Certain American circles use the Chernobyl accident as an excuse for another brainwashing campaign. The instigators of that campaign did not even bother to apologize to the American public for misleading them. They were pursuing a malicious plan that violates every moral norm and rule of civilized society.

The progress of technology has regrettably been accompanied by setbacks at all times. Quite recently Americans felt that themselves after the Challenger tragedy. That national tragedy of the American people aroused profound sympathy in the USSR. Our scientists named newly discovered minor planets [as heard] after the American astronauts who lost their lives. All official and unofficial reports in the USSR were full of sympathy and respect for those who died. I hope this will make those who were misled by the well orchestrated propaganda blush. The campaign organized by Washington pursued clear-cut objectives. In his television appearance, Mikhail Gorbachev said that the instigators of the campaign needed an excuse to try and smear the Soviet Union and its foreign policy, weaken the appeal of the Soviet initiatives for halting nuclear tests and abolishing nuclear weapons, and at the same time soften the criticism of American behavior on the international arena.

If there had been no accident at Chernobyl the men in Washington, still thinking in terms of the cold war, would no doubt have come up with some other excuse. After all, they did make up a story about the presence of a Soviet Army brigade in Cuba when they had no other grounds to justify their anti-Soviet hysteria. The chief motive for the anti-Soviet campaign is to divert the attention of the public at home from Washington's negative stand on the issue of nuclear disarmament.

TRIPOLI FORUM DENOUNCES U.S. 'NEOGLOBALISM'

PM161338 MOscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 May 86 Morning Edition p 5

[Konstantin Geyvandov "Political Observer's Opinion': "'No!' to Neoglobalism"]

[Text] Last week a delegation from the Soviet Committee for Solidarity With Asian and African Countries, including this writer, visited Libya. Exactly 20 days after the raid and bombing by U.S. aircraft of Tripoli and Banghazi, signs of the attack are still evident at every turn. We visited residential areas in the country's capital, where many homes have been turned into mounds of ruins. On the ashes of one of them we met with two young boys. And one of them, noting that we were taking a long hard look at everything, showed us a textbook.

"Look what I found," he said excitedly. "This is my schoolmate Muhammad Farid al-Yaziji's history textbook. I was in class four with him. He lived in this house and died during the U.S. air raid." Yes, Muhammad Farid al-Yaziji, like dozens of his countrymen in this small country of Libya, was killed by the U.S. bombs and missiles dropped on their heads on the orders of the President of the world's most powerful imperialist power. This act of unbridled terror, which with the help of the neoglobalism doctrine has been elevated to the rank of U.S. state policy, aroused alarm, anger, and resolute protest everywhere.

These feelings were also shared by the participants of an extraordinary session of the World Secretariat for Solidarity with the Arab People, which comprised envoys from Western Europe, Latin America, and many international organizations as well as representatives from the Asian and African countries. The Soviet delegation had come to Tripoli to participate in this meeting, which was convened to work out join actions to combat the aggressive U.S. policy against the Libyan people. And, I think, no too soon. The Tripoli forum coincided with the meeting of the leaders of the largest capitalist countries in Tokyo. The decisions of that meeting unambiguously attest that the United States not only does not intend to abandon the policy of state terrorism, but, having to all intents and purposes won approval from its allies for the neoglobalism doctrine, intends to further step up and expand the framework of its actions, making them multilateral in nature. It was not without reason that the U.S. mass media claims that the approval in Tokyo of the U.S. aggression against Libya "made U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz literally jump for joy."

President Reagan, noting at a press conference that "we achieved everything we wanted to achieve at the summit," issued new threats against Libya and other countries that do not suit his administration. These were not empty words, as reports by the main U.S. newspapers and radio and television stations attest. They talk about a readiness for new strikes against Libya and even claim that the White House is now examining the question of using cruise missiles to avoid killing pilots. After the Tokyo summit, Secretary of State Shultz himself stated that discussions were under way about the "whole range" of possible actions. In conversation with us, Libyans stress that they do not doubt for a minute that sooner or later the U.S. Administration will again move from threats to a show of its military might, hitting their country with bomb and missile strikes. That was how they explained the highly emotionally-charged speech which M. Al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, made to the citizens of Banghazi on 8 May.

It must be said that Libya is not the only Arab country against which the U.S. Administration is planning to direct its strikes. Appetite, as is well known, increases with eating and the latest victim -- Syria -- has already been targeted in Washington. Perhaps the sole difference is that the instigator of the aggression is to be Israel, the junior U.S. partner, which has often been involved in aggression. At any rate CBS -- a well-informed U.S. television company -- attests that "while the United States is fighting Libya by resorting to bombing raids and sanctions, Israel is increasingly vigorously accusing Syria of terrorism. Evidence is emerging that Israel may take military action against that country." Somewhat later CBS claimed that on his visit to Washington, Israeli Defense Minister Y. Rabin agreed with U.S. officials on plans for aggression against Syria. Clearly, that is why the United States and a number of other NATO countries have unleashed an unbridled anti-Syrian campaign in order to provide propaganda backup.

All these facts were naturally the center of attention of the representatives of the international public who gathered in Tripoli. The main theme running through the delegates' speeches was the idea that the state terrorism practiced by the U.S. Administration and its allies against Arab countries is aimed at diverting the world from the need to solve the fundamental problems at the root of the Near East crisis. These problems are undoubtedly the question of liberating the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967 and fully restoring the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights. Operating in the opposite direction, the discussion noted, the U.S.-Israeli "strategic allies" are striving to perpetuate the occupation of Arab lands and establish their domination in the region.

The extraordinary forum of peace-loving forces held in Tripoli between 6-9 May adopted a number of documents, among which I would like to note the statement of solidarity with the Libyan people's struggle against U.S. aggression, the short-term action program, and the appeal to the U.S. people to dissociate themselves from the policy of state terrorism pursued by Washington with regard to "Third World" countries.

I must note with satisfaction that Soviet initiatives, including the nuclear disarmament program announced on 15 January, were the starting point for many of the measures planned for implementation, since, as the Portuguese representative noted, this is the fundamental basis for the struggle for genuine peace and peoples' security. Moreover, in its resolution the Tripoli forum fully espoused the program put forward by the Soviet Union for turning the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and cooperation. In this connection the Greek representative proposed that the Greek national committee for the struggle to eliminate U.S. military bases from the country's territory expand the framework of its activity to become Mediterranean in outlook.

Pride of place in the action program drawn up in Tripoli was given to the continuation of the struggle to strengthen the unity and cohesion of the Arab peoples in their opposition to the perfidious plans of U.S. imperialism and its allies.

opposition to the perfidious plans of U.S. imperialism and its allies. The Arab representatives resolutely attached paramount importance to these questions. It is possible to understand their concern if, for instance, one takes into account statements made to Congress by R. Murphy, assistant secretary of state, such as: "To the credit of the moderate Arab states it must be said that they did not respond to Al-Qadhdhafi's call to organize a summit meeting of representatives of the Arab countries." And another of his statements: "The United States has privately received numerous confirmations of Arab understanding of our decision" to carry out last month's raid on Libyan targets.

Since the neoglobalism doctrine started to be implemented the strategic line of U.S. Near East policy has become complete in form. The main task boils down to strengthening Israel's hold on the occupied Arab territories and ensuring the domination of the U.S.-Israeli allies in the region. In the scheme of the Washington strategists the strikes against Lebanon, Iraq, Tunisia, and Libya and the escalation of subversive activity in the Arab world should promote the gradual attainment of this goal. But in fact this actions will boomerang on the U.S. Administration, sowing hatred for its policy everywhere. The international meeting in Tripoli is a vivid example of that.

REPORT ON TERRORIST TRAINING CAMPS IN U.S.

LD161023 Moscow TASS in English 0850 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Washington May 16 TASS -- TASS correspondent N. Orekhov reporting.

The Government of the United States allows ultra right-wing "private organizations" in the U.S. to conduct training of saboteurs and terrorists who later stage crimes in other countries.

No other tham Ambassador Robert Oakley, head of the U.S. State Department office in charge of "combatting terrorism," was compelled to admit that. Speaking at a meeting witn foreign newsmen in Washington he confirmed American press reports that some Sikh extremists had undergone training in a special "private" camp in Alabama.

Clearly caught off-guard, Oakley tried to pass off both "students" and "instructors" at that terrorist training facility as fans of innocent "games" in the open air. It was a camp for those Americans who sometimes behave like children, the ambassador said. It does not pose a serious threat. The F.B.I. and the Department of Justice are closely watching every such facility in the country.

The next moment Oakley evidently recalled that the press reports spoke not of a "children's camp," but of a base of thugs and adventurists headed by former U.S. serviceman Frank Kemper who had taken part in the imperialist aggression in Vietnam. The ambassador hurriedly added that the Government of United States had never said it [had] knowledge of every event taking place in the country.

The owner of one of such mercenary-training camps Robert Brown said that his group had been training Afghan insurgents in 1980 -- isn't this the export of terrorism? - one of the newsmen asked.

The ambassador was not in position to deny that fact either. In an awkward effort to wriggle out he said only that in 1980 U.S. laws had not banned such training.

Does this mean that at present American laws ban the terrorist-training activity in the United States? The ambassador evaded the answer to this question. Instead he made a vague and meaningless remark to the effect that everything depended on what kind of activity it was.

SOLOVYEV APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN

LD171025 Moscow TASS in English 1012 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 17 TASS -- The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has appointed Nikolay Solovyev the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the USSR to Japan.

Nikolay Solovyev was born in 1931. He has received a higher education. In 1958-1961 and 1966-1971 he worked in the Soviet Embassy in Japan. Prior to his being appointed the ambassador of the USSR to Japan, he headed the Second Far Eastern Department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet relieved Petr Abrasimov of his duties of the ambassador of the USSR to Japan in view of his retirement on pension.

KOVALENKO-LED CPSU DELEGATION VISITS JAPAN

LD171021 Moscow TASS in English 0827 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 TASS -- The visiting delegation of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) officials led by Ivan Kovalenko, deputy head of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee, met with Shoji Niihara, member of the presidium of the Central Committee of the Japan Communist Party (JCP), on Friday. Matters aimed at developing cooperation between the two parties in accordance with CPSU's and the JCP's joint statement, adopted in December 1984 as a result of the summit talks in Moscow, were discussed during the friendly conversation.

The delegation also had meetings with Yoshikatsu Takeiri, chairman of the central executive committee of the Komeito Party, as well as with Daisaku Ikeda, honorary chairman of the Sokagakkai, a mass public-religious organisation. The importance of joint actions of all forces, despite political, ideological and other differences, with a view to removing the nuclear threat hanging over mankind and eliminating nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction was emphasized.

JAPANESE EXPERTS: RADIATION BELOW 'PERMISSIBLE' LEVEL

LD161431 Moscow TASS in English 1406 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Tokyo May 16 TASS -- The Japanese citizens staying in the USSR and countries neighbouring it face no danger of radioactive contamination, according to Japanese specialists who have made a trip to the Soviet Union and several European countries to make radiological checks on Japanese people living there.

KYODO TSUSHIN news agency reported that the two radiology experts, Yukio Tateno from the Japan Science and Technology Agency and Takao Numakunai from the Japan Research Institute of Atomic Energy, had undertaken the tour at the request of the Japanese Foreign Ministry. Their mission was to determine the extent of possible danger to Japanese citizens working in the USSR and adjacent countries which had allegedly been subjected to radioactive contamination following the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

The specialists concluded that the radiation levels in the Soviet Union, Poland, Sweden and other European countries are far below the permissible norms officially accepted in Japan.

REPORTAGE ON CEAUSESCU VISIT TO MOSCOW

Speaks With Gorbachev

PM190857 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 May 1986 First Edition p 1

[Friendly Meeting -- PRAVDA headline]

[Text] N. Ceausescu, general secretary of the RCP, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania [SRR], as in the Soviet Union 16 May on a friendly working visit at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Talks were held in the Kremlin between M.S. Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, and N. Ceausescu, RCP general secretary and president of the SRR. During the talks, the Soviet and Romanian leaders exchanged information on the current socioeconomic development of both countries and on their work to impelement the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 13th RCP Congress.

Primary attention was paid to the state of and prospects for Soviet-Romanian relations. M.S. Gorbachev and N. Ceausescu expressed a joint determination to continue strengthening to the utmost the friendship and comprehensive cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Socialist Republic of Romania, and between the CPSU and the RCP, on the basis of Marxism-Leninism, international solidarity, equal rights, mutual respect, and comradely mutual assistance.

Citing the commonality of fundamental interests and objectives of the two countries, both leaders confirmed their intention to consistently expand and strengthen fruitful cooperation in the economic, political, ideological, scientific, and cultural spheres and in defense and other areas. They advocated enriching the content of interparty and interstate links at all levels and emphasized the importance of mutual study of experience in building socialism.

Noting the economic development coming from mutually beneficial trade, economic, scientific, and technical links, M.S. Gorbachev and N. Ceasescu confirmed their efforts to further expand these links and raise their efficiency. Favorable opportunities for this are provided by the Long-Term Program for the Development of Economic and Scientific and Technical Cooperation Between the USSR and Romania for the period through the Year 2000, signed during the visit.

The implementation of this program will ensure, on the basis of the expanding possibilities of the two countries' national economies, a dynamic growth in trade turnover, strengthening in the coordination and specialization of production, the fulfillment to an increasing degree of the two countries' requirements for raw materials, fuel, machinery, equipment, and consumer goods, and an improvement in interaction in the sphere of science and technology. All of this will contribute to the solution of major problems in economic development on the basis of mutual interest.

Particular attention was paid to the importance of raising the qualitative level of cooperation, the use of the two countries' mutual interests in new ways and new forms of it, and the expansion of links between economic and scientific organizations. It was agreed that the governments of the two countries would, in the near future, ensure the adoption of specific measures for the implementation of the program's provisions.

The two leaders stressed the importance of the consistent fulfillment of the decisions of the CEMA member-countries' economic summit conference (June 1984); intensive work in the implementation of the complex program of scientific and technological progress of CEMA member-countries through the year 2000, and fuller utilization of the possibilities of economic interaction [vzaimodeystviye] between the fraternal countries with the aim of accelerating their social and economic development, ensuring their economic invulnerability from the capitalist market and activizing their participation in the international division of labor.

A program of cultural and scientific cooperation between the USSR and Romania for 1986-1990 was signed. The important role of cultural and scientific contacts and the means of mass information for better mutual familiarization with the achievements in building socialism was noted. Emphasis was put on the necessity to activize cooperation between friendship societies, trade unions, youth, women's and other public organizations, sports and tourist contacts, and between work collectives in the two countries to further strengthen the bonds of friendship that bind the Soviet and Romanian peoples.

During an exchange of views on international issues, the leaders expressed serious concern at the tense and dangerous situation that has developed in the world, caused by the continuation of the arms race, especially nuclear, in connection with U.S. and NATO actions. They refuse to embark upon the road of curbing the arms race, stopping nuclear tests, and preventing the militarization of space. Manifestations of the imperialist policy of force and unceremonious interference in the internal affairs of other states lately have multiplied in number.

M.S. Gorbachev and N. Ceausescu looked at ways to resolve the fundamental issue of today -- the defense of peace, stopping the arms race, adopting specific measures for disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, including a ban on nuclear explosions, and eliminating the threat of nuclear catastrophe.

The Socialist Republic of Romania gives great importance to and supports the program that has been proposed by the Soviet Union for step-by-step liquidation of nuclear weapons and other mass destruction means by the end of this century.

Both leaders noted the need to strive resolutely for a substantial reduction of conventional weapons and armed forces and also of military expenditure, and for a comprehensive approach to the issue of disarmament. They advocated developing political dialogue and spoke out against the further buildup of nuclear weapons in Europe and in favor of completely freeing the continent of nuclear weapons -- both medium-range and tactical.

The USSR positively appraises and supports the proposals made by Romania and the People's Republic of Bulgaria on transforming the Balkans into a nuclear- and chemical weapons-free zone. The creation of such zones in various areas of Europe and the world would make an important contribution to ensure peace and international security.

During an exchange of opinions on the progress of the pan-European process, both leaders praised the successful conclusion of the Stockholm Conference. They noted the importance of the forthcoming Vienna meeting between representatives of the participant states in the Helsinki Conference, which should give new impetus to the reinforcement of security in Europe, the return to detente and to the establishment of broad, mutually beneficial cooperation.

The need to eliminate seats of tension and armed conflict in various regions of the world, and to settle conflict situations and disputes between states through talks was emphasized. The Soviet Union assesses positively and supports the Romanian initiative on peaceful settlement of conflicts. The danger posed to the cause of peace and international cooperation by terrorist acts and state terrorism was noted. The USSR and Romania stand for strict adherence to the principles of national independence and sovereignty, equal rights, and noninterference in internal affairs, as well as the principles of nonuse of force or threats of force in interstate relations. Solidarity with the peoples struggling for freedom, independence, and social progress was expressed.

During the talks, the importance of the Nonaligned Movement's role as an influential force in the international arena was noted, as was its contribution to the preservation and strengthening of universal peace. The USSR and Romania came out decisively in favor of the normalization of international links in the spheres of economics, science, and technology; the removal of any artificial obstacles and discriminatory restrictions whatsoever; the elimination of underdevelopment; a just and global solution to the problems of foreign debt; the democratic restructuring of the whole international economic system's relations, and the establishment of a new international economic order.

M.S. Gorbachev and N. Ceausescu noted the particular importance, in the present international atmosphere, of the unity and cohesion of the Warsaw Pact member-states, which is an effective factor in safeguarding security and peaceful work for their peoples, as well as for the preservation and consolidation of peace in Europe and throughout the world.

The USSR and Romania are fully determined to actively and purposefully cooperate with the other allied socialist states to elaborate and implement an agreed upon policy of peace, security, and international cooperation. They also expressed a readiness to develop relations with the other socialist countries, and with all states, regardless of their sociopolitical system.

The leaders of the CPSU and the RCP stressed that both parties consistently advocate strengthening cooperation, unity, and solidarity among communist and workers parties, and among all progressive and democratic forces in the struggle for detente, disarmament, and peace.

Confidence was expressed that the talks would result in and important contribution to strengthening friendship and expanding comprehensive cooperation between the CPSU and the RCP, and between the Soviet Union and the Socialist Republic of Romania in the interests of the peoples of both countries, the causes of socialism and peace.

N. Ceausescu invited M.S. Gorbachev to visit Romania on a friendly visit. The invitation was accepted with gratitude.

The meeting took place in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding.

Sign Cooperation Document

PM190909 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 May 86 First Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Documents Signed"]

[Text] On 16 May in the Kremlin, M.S. Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary and N. Ceausescu, general secretary of the RCP and president of Romania,

signed a Long-Term Program for the Development of Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation Between the USSR and Romania Through the Year 2000.

A program for cultural and scientific cooperation between the USSR and Romania for 1986-1990 was signed by E.A. Shevardnadze, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR foreign minister, and I. Vaduva, RCP Central Committee member and Romanian foreign minister.

Soviet officials present at the signing were Comrades G.A. Aliyev, V.I. Vorotnikov, A.A. Gromyko, L.N. Zaykov, Y.K. Ligachev, N.I. Ryzhkov, M.S. Solomentsev, V.M. Chebrikov, P.N. Demichev, V.I. Dolgikh, B.N. Yeltsin, S.L. Sokolov, N.V. Talyzin, A.P. Biryukova, A.F. Dobrynin, M.V. Zimyanin, VA. Medvedev, V Nikonov, G.P. Razumovskiy, and A.N. Yakovlev; I.V. Kapitonov, chairman of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission; the deputy chiarmen of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers, and other officials. Present at the siigning from Romania were the officials accompanying N. Ceausescu.

Later that day the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers gave a luncheon in the Great Kremlin Palace in honor of N. Ceausescu. The Romanian officials accompanying N. Ceausescu on his trip were there also.

Soviets attending the luncheon were Comrades M.S. Gorbachev, G.A. Aliyev, V.I. Vorotnikov, A.A. Gromyko, L.N. Zaykov, Y.K. Ligachev, N.I. Ryzhkov, M.S. Solomentsev, V.M. Chebrikov, E.A. Shevardnadze, P.N. Demichev, V.I. Dolgikh, B.N. Yeltsin, S.L. Sokolov, N.V. Talyzin, A.P. Biryukova, A.F. Dobrynin, M.V. Zimyanin, V.A. Medvedev, V.P. Nikonov, G.P. Razumovskiy, and A.Z. Yakovlev; I.V. Kapitonov, chairman of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission; the deputy chairmen of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers, and other officals.

During the luncheon, which took place in a warm, friendly atmosphere, M.S. Gorbachev and N. Ceausescu exchanged speeches.

Moscow TV Shows Signing Ceremony

LD162155 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 16 May 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpt] Today the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers gave a luncheon in the Great Kremlin Palace in honor of Nicolae Ceausescu. With Comrade Ceausescu were the Romanian officials who accompanied him on his trip.

Soviet officials at the luncheon were Comrades Gorbachev, Aliyev, Vorotnikov, Gromyko, Zaykov, Ligachev, Ryzhkov, Solomentsev, Chebrikov, Shevardnadze, Demichev, Dolgikh, Yeltsin, Sokolov, Talyzin, Briyukova, Dobrynin, Zimyanin, Medvedev, Nikonov, Razumovskiy, Yakovlev; Kapitonov, chairman of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission, and other officials.

During the luncheon, which took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Nicolae Ceausescu exchanged speeches. [Video shows airplane taxiing on runway, Ligachev and Medvedev waiting on tarmac with officials; Ceausescu leaves the airplane, is welcomed by Ligachev. Video then shows Gorbachev and Ceausescu signing the accord followed by Shevardnadze and Vaduva signing the cultural agreement. In the lineup behind them, the Romanians are on the left of the screen and the Soviets on the right. The Soviet lineup is not shown as a whole, but, visible behind Gorbachev and Ceausescu when they are signing the documents are, from left to right: Gromyko, Ryzhkov, Ligachev, Solomentsev, Vorotnikov, and Chebrikov. Gorbachev and Ceausescu are then individually shown in middle distance shots signing, then the camera moves away to an onlooking group of leaders, from left to right on the screen: Yakovlev, Biryukova, Zimyanin, Sokolov, Razumovskiy, and Medvedev. Gorbachev and Ceausescu are then seen exchanging documents, shaking hands to the applause of those present. Video then shows Shevardnadze and Vaduva signing. In the Soviet lineup behind them, Gorbachev is added at the end of the line on the left of the screen. On the right, next to Chebrikov and moving to the right are Zaykov, Aliyev, Yeltsin, Talyzin, Dolgikh, and Demichev. Shevardnadze and Vaduva are then seen shaking hands. A group behind this lineup includes Antonov..]

[Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1700 GMT In its "Vremya" newscast reports on Gorbachev and Ceausescu signing the accord. Video shows the same lineup as above with the addition of Dobrynin, Kapitonov, and Nikonov]

Party Officials Discuss Relations

LD162251 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Meetings were held in Moscow today between Comrade Shevardnadze and Comrade Vaduva; Comrade Medvedev, CPSU Central Committee secretary and Comrade Stojan, candidate member of the RCP Central Committee Political Executive Committee and secretary of the RCP Central Committee; and between Comrade Antonov, CPSU Central Committee member and deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and Comrade Totu, candidate member of the RCP Central Committee Political Executive Committee and deputy prime minister of the Romanian Government.

At the discussions, which were held in a businesslike and comradely atmosphere, and the officials exchanged opinions on issues relating to the further development and strengthening of Soviet-Romanian relations and certain topical international problems of mutual interest.

PRAVDA CARRIES CEAUSESCU PROFILE

PM161338 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 May 86 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed biographical sketch: "Regarding the Visit to the USSR by Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the RCP and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania"]

[Text] Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP general secretary and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, arrived in Moscow 16 May on a friendly working visit.

N. Ceausescu was born 26 January 1918 to a peasant family in Scornicesti Village, Olt District.

He joined Romania's revolutionary workers movement while still in his teens. He joined the Union of Communist Youth in 1933, and was admitted to the RCP in the same year. In 1939-1940 N. Ceausescu belonged to the RCP Central Committee Central Commission for Work Among Youth and was secretary of the Union of Communist Youth Central Committee. In 1940 he was arrested by the military-fascist regime and spent the next 4 years in prison and in a concentration camp.

After Romania's liberation from fascist slavery, N. Ceausescu continued to serve as Secretary to the Union of Communist Youth Central Committee. The 1945 RCP National Conference elected him to candidate membership in the party Central Committee, and at the 1948 Sixth RCP Congress he was elected to full membership in the Central committee. IN 1950-1954 N. Ceausescu was Romania's deputy minister of national defense. In 1954 he was elected to candidate membership in the RCP Central Committee Politburo and became Central Committee secretary. The Seventh (1955) and Eighth (1960) RCP Congresses elected him to membership in the Politburo and made him secretary of the party Central Committee.

In March 1965 N. Ceausescu was elected first secretary and, at the Ninth RCP Committee general secretary. Since August 1969 he has held that office.

N. Ceausescu has been chairman of the Socialist Republic of Romania Council of State since 1971, chairman of the Democracy and Socialist Unity Front since 1968, chairman of the Defense Council and supreme commander in chief of the Armed Forces since 1969, and chairman of the Socialist Republic of Romania Supreme Council for Economic and Social Development since 1973. He has been president of the Socialist Republic of Romania since March 1974.

N. Ceausescu has been named Hero of the Socialist Republic of Romania three times and Hero of Socialist Labor of the Socialist Republic of Romania. He has been awarded the Order of Lenin and the Order of the October Revolution.

N. Ceausescu has visited the Soviet Union on many occasions, and as head of RCP delegations to CPSU congresses.

Soviet people welcome the friendly working visit to the USSR BY Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP general secretary and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, and express confidence that the visit will help to further strengthen and develop relations of friendship and complete cooperation between our parties, countries, and peoples in the interest of peace and socialism.

Seen Off By Ligachev, Medvedev

LD161300 Moscow TASS in English 1252 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 16 TASS -- Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, left Moscow for home today.

He stayed in the USSR on a one-day friendly working visit at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee and the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Nicolae Ceausescu was seen off at the airport by Yegor Ligachev, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and a secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Vadim Medvedev, a secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and other officials.

SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDIUM CONGRATULATES NEW SFRY LEADERS

LD161220 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium cordially congratulated Comrade Sinan Hasani on his election as chairman of the SFRY Presidency, and wished him success in his high-level state position.

The USSR Council of Ministers sent congratulations and wishes for success to Comrade Branko Mikulic following his election as president of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia. The telegrams expressed confidence that Soviet-Yugoslav relations of friendship and comprehensive cooperation will continue to develop unswervingly and will strengthen for the good of the peoples of our countries and in the interests of peace and socialism.

HONECKER SUPPORTS GORBACHEV'S LATEST ARMS OFFER

LD162105 Moscow TASS in English 2036 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Berlin May 16 TASS -- The GDR welcomes the Soviet Union's decision to extend the unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing till August 6 of this year and the readiness expressed by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev to meet without delay with President of the United States Reagan for talks on banning nuclear tests. This was said by General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, Chairman of the Council of State of the GDR Erich Honecker at a meeting with President-Minister of Badden-Wuerttemberg Land (FRG) Lofhar Spaeth now on a visit in the GDR.

The leader of the GDR stressed that the peaceful initiatives of the USSR, and other socialist countries indicate the road to mankind's future. All efforts must be aimed at preventing nuclear catastrophe, at terminating the arms race on earth and preventing it in space. It is necessary to use even the slightest chance for opposing the increase of the danger of new war.

Erich Honecker noted that the two German states must do everything they can to ensure that war should never start on German land again. But the FRG Government, having concluded the agreement on the participation in the U.S. star wars plans has adopted the decision that hampers relations with socialist countries, that adversely affects the interests of security and cooperation in Europe. In view of the responsibility of both German states for safeguarding peace, they should make a vigorous contribution to detente and disarmament. The banning of chemical weapons and the creation of a zone free from chemical weapons in Europe would be of much importance in this.

'REVENGE SEEKERS' ADDRESSES SUDETEN GERMANS MEETING

LD162201 Moscow TASS in English 1417 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Bonn May 16 TASS -- TASS correspondent Sergey Sosnovskiy reports: Territorial claims to socialist Czechoslovakia and inciting calls for a "revenge" for the lost war are voiced at a gathering of "The Sudeten Germans' Fraternity" opened in Munich today. The local authorities headed by Bavarian prime Minister Strauss granted revenge seekers several pavilions of the fair township where there is beer galore, drums are thundering and flags boast coats of arms of some "East German lands" which had disappeared from the European political map together with the Nazi Reich. West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl will be the key speaker at the gathering on Sunday.

Kohl Makes 'Impudent' Demand

LD181836 Moscow TASS in English 1759 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] Bonn May 18 TASS -- TASS correspondent Sergey Sosnovskiy reports:

The participation of Chancellor Helmut Kohl in the assemblage of the arch-reactionary "Land Association of Sudeten Germans" in Munich has been fresh evidence of official Bonn's direct encouragement of the revanchist trends in the FRG.

Despite mass protests of democratic public, he addressed today a lengthy speech to a gathering in the Bavarian capital of "expellees", who after more than four decades after the rout of Nazi Germany continue shedding tears over the "great German Reich within the borders of 1937", are seeking revenge and a recarving of the political realities in Europe.

Helmut Kohl has thus been the first West German chancellor to attend an assemblage of "The Land Association of Sudeten Germans". His speech in Munich abounded in praise for the "expellees", their "contribution to the development of the FRG". He also attempted to refute just accusations against them of preaching the ideas of revanchism.

Kohl claimed that not only the "expellees" have the "right" to come together for such assemblages, but the FRG chancellor has, as a matter of course, a certain "right" to attend them. Thus, the chancellor has clearly demonstrated that his pointed "fraternization" with the "eqig gestrige" (eternally yesterday's) was a carefully planned and deliberate political gesture.

Helmut Kohl did not miss the opportunity to use the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear plant for demands, which are totally unfounded, for a "compensation for the material damage" allegedly caused to the FRG.

He made this impudent demand in front of the Hitler relics on the eve of the 45th anniversary of the Nazi Germany's attack against the Soviet Union. They in Bonn have, apparently, forgotten their irredeemable debt to the Soviet people for the grief, murder, destruction and suffering caused by German nazism to the USSR, to every Soviet family.

But nobody and nothing has been forgotten.

Helmut Kohl's assurances that he strives for mutual understanding and cooperation with the "Eastern neighbours" sounded at least unconvincing against the background of the outrageous demand for the actual elimination of the socialist system, which were made at the gathering, but did not meet with a rebuff from the head of the West German Government.

Similar revanchist gatherings have been held on these days in Essen, Dinkelsbuehl, and Felbach and Heilbronn. The instigatory calls by the "ewig gestrige" met with a storm of applause from members of the Bonn government, Bundestag and Landtag deputies, Bundeswehr and police top brass.

All this is evidence of the rexamination of the ideas of revanchism on the banks of the Rhine, which is taking place not simply with the connivance, but even with most effective cooperation of those in power in the FRG.

This is clearly in conflict with the interests of a peaceful future of the European nations.

Yakhontov Reports Kohl Speech

LD191002 Moscow TASS in English 0942 GMT 19 May 86

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Moscow May 19 TASS -- Follows the full text of Yuliy Yakhontov's dispatch from Bonn published in "PRAVDA" today.

"FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl addressed the annual gathering of the 'Land Association of Sudeten Germans' in Munich, the capital of Bavaria.

He has thus disregarded the calls by the country's public and political figures that he should not participate in that clearly dubious function regularly held by those who openly lay claim to socialist Czechoslovakia's terrtory, demand a revision of the results of the Second World War.

The chancellor deemed it necessary to stress pointedly his closeness to the 'expellees'. He also credited them with repudiating 'revenge and retribution'. lauded to the skies their 'contribution to the FRG's formation'.

"The pronouncements by Helmut Kohl on the problems of peace, albeit he mentioned in passing his wish to cooperate with the Warsaw Treaty member states, contained quite frank calls for strengthening defence in the face of a 'military threat' and what he described as political blackmail 'resulting from military power and superiority'. Albeit the countries from where that threat allegedly stems were not named, the transport allusion was very well understood.

The speaker again reiterated the already hacknayed slogan of the leadership of the Christian Democratic Union Peace With a Smaller Number of Weapons. In the present-day conditions that call sounded as open mockery, since it is an open secret that the FRG is the sole NATO member country, on whose territory U.S. first strike nuclear missiles "Pershing 2" trained on the USSR are deployed in combat readiness, that it is precisely there that the deployment is proceeding full speed ahead now of another 96 nuclear cruise missiles, which are also a first strike weapon.

"And take the agreement signed between Bonn and Washington on the participation of West German firms in work on the 'stars wars' programme, which served as an expression of political support for the U.S. plan to militarise outer space and simultaneously turned the FRG into an accomplice in a new spiral of the arms race and its spreading into outer space.

Another fact is that the FRG leadership is the first to open that country for the deployment on its territory of U.S. chemical binary weapons and thus gives a blessing to the USA for the production of these weapons.

Albeit the chancellor pointed out that at present there is an 'encouraging situation' in the field of arms control, it could be deduced from his statement that nuclear disarmament and its verification is not at all a very important matter.

"Helmut Kohl did not miss the chance to use the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant for demands, that are totally unfounded, for a "compensation for the material damage" allegedly inflicted upon the FRG. He put forward those impudent demands addressing Hitler relics on the eve of the 45th anniversary of the Nazi Germany's attack against the Soviet Union. They in Bonn have, apparently, forgotten the unreedemable debt to the Soviet people for the grief, murder, destruction and sufferings caused by German nazism to the USSR, to every Soviet family.

"Helmut Kohl's speech in Munich could disappoint in some respects his listeners from among the most rabid revemchists. He, for example, unlike the case with his previous speeches, did not even mention the notorious "outstanding German issue'. The speaker passed over in silence also the problem of Europe's post-war borders, about which he spoke at the gathering of the 'Silesian Land Association' in Hannover last year.

Yet, the very fact that Helmut Kohl has been the first FRG chancellor to address the 'Land Association of Sudeten Germans' is evidence of his 'fraternization' with the 'ewig gestrige' ('eternally yesterday's'), of the fact that that was a deliberate and well-calculated political action."

RYZHKOV, SHEVARDNADZE WELCOME SPAIN"S GONZALEZ

LD191133 Moscow TASS in English 1128 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 19 TASS -- Felipe Gonzalez, chairman [as received] of the Government of Spain, and Mrs Gonzalez today arrived in Moscow on an official visit at the invitation of the Soviet Government. At the airport the head of government of Spain was welcomed by Nikolay Ryzhkov, a member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and wife, Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, and other officials.

MURAKHOVSKIY RECEIVES NETHERLANDS AGRICULTURALIST

PM161412 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 May 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Conversation Held"]

[Text] V. S. Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee, received on 14 May Van den Berg, president of the ["Sebeko"] Agricultural Cooperative (the Netherlands).

REPORTAGE ON KLIBI PRESS CONFERENCE

PRAVDA Cites Predeparture Remarks

PM161449 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 May 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Visit Concluded"]

[Text] Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, left the Soviet Union 14 May. He was in our country on a working visit at the Soviet Government's invitation.

He was seen off at the airport by USSR Deputy Foreign Minister L.F. Ilichev and other officials. Heads of diplomatic missions from a number of Arab countries accredited in Moscow were among the send-off party.

Prior to his departure, C. Klibi spoke at a press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists at the USSR Foreign Ministry press center.

The Arab League secretary general expressed profound satisfaction with the results of his visit and his talks with Soviet leaders. He rated highly the Soviet Union's stance, which consistently advocates a comprehensive and fair settlement of the Near East problem.

C. Klibi noted the similarity of approaches by the Arab states and the Soviet Union toward the question of a Near East settlement by means of convening an international conference with the participation of all interested parties, including the PLO.

Backs Call for Fleet Withdrawal

PM161309 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 16 May 86 p 3

["Own Information" report: "Press Conference by C. Klibi"]

[Text] At a press conference in Moscow for Soviet and foreign journalists, C. Klibi, Arab League secretary general, expressed deep satisfaction with the results of his visit to the USSR. He spoke about the Arab peoples courageous struggle for their independence. Answering a question put by a SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA correspondent, C. Klibi highly praised the Soviet proposal that U.S. and USSR naval fleets withdraw simultaneously from the Mediterranean. Such a step, he stressed, would undoubtedly help to strengthen peace in the region and solve many urgent problems. The possibility of the U.S. 6th Fleet carrying out piratical actions against Libya and other Arab countries would thus be removed.

ISRAELI MILITARY BUILDUP ON SYRIAN BORDER NOTED

LD161409 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0230 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Israel, having secured the support of the United States, is stepping up its war preparations against Syria. On the Golan Heights, which it occupies, and in the Al-Biqa' Valley near the Syrian border, concentrations of Israeli troops can be seen. Tanks, armored transport vehicles, and troop detachments are being sent there. The militarist activity is being accompanied by a hostile propaganda campaign against Syria, which Washington and Israel are trying, without supplying any proof, to accuse of terrorism.

KHADDAM DESCRIBES RELATIONS AS 'SUPERB'

LD181216 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0913 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] Beirut, 18 May (TASS) -- Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam highly assessed the state of Soviet-Syrian relations. In an interview with the Lebanese paper ASH-SHA'B, he stated that relations between the two nations are "superb" [prevoskhodnyy] and are built on mutual trust in accordance with the provisions of their treaty of friendship and cooperation. A. Khaddam expressed gratitude for USSR's support for Syria and other Arab countries.

Talking about the Near East situation, the Syrian vice president pointed out that a settlement of the Near East conflict is possible only within the framework of a representative international conference with all interested parties taking part.

A. Khaddam sharply criticized the policy of blackmail and threats being pursued by the United States toward Syria, and stressed that Washington will not succeed in intimidating the Syrian people and forcing them to renounce their independent course. U.S. policy, he noted, is directed at establishing U.S. hegemony throughout the world and, therefore, it runs radically counter to the interests of peoples.

MOSCOW TV CALLS NEAR EAST SITUATION 'EXPLOSIVE'

LD172135 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 17 May 86

[Report by Political Observer Farid Seyful-Mulyukov, from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Seyful-Mulyukov] I have often observed how, in the deserts of the Near East, sand storms can suddenly blow in. Military conflicts in this explosive region have sparked off just like this. The level of tension that is mounting in the Arab countries alarms the world. There are serious reason for this.

When American aircraft dropped bombs on the cities of Libya, it was obvious that this was merely the start of a new phase in the U.S. and Israeli policy of force in the Near East. The next target will be Damascus, the Western press has predicted. In Washington and Tel Aviv, the preparations for an Israeli military attack on Syria are openly discussed.

Israeli Defense Minister Rabin recently visited the United States and he discussed the variants for a new blitzkrieg. The excuse for a punitive action against Syria was fabricated. They unfoundedly accuse her and Libya of assisting international terrorism.

Secretary of State Shultz announced the other day, without mincing words, that Syria, and I quote: Is on our list of countries which are involved in this evil. The White House was able to impose its imperial conception of overcoming terrorism on some allies at the Tokyo meeting of the Western Seven. It was precisely after this conference that a torrent of threats and blackmail poured out toward Syria.

In Damascus they must take these worrying signals into account. The president of Syria, Hafiz al-Asad, said recently: The United States and Israel are trying to frighten Syria, even to the point of unleashing aggression, to shake our willpower and resolve. But the Syrian people are not afraid of American and Israeli threats and are undertaking all the necessary steps to strengthen their defensive capability.

The situation in the Golan Heights and in the border region of southern Lebanon, occupied by Israel, is getting hotter. Columns of tanks and other military equipment are being brought in. Time will tell whether this mainspring of routine aggression will be put into operation. It is not terrorism -- which Damascus resolutely condemns -- but its firm and just position on the issues of a Near East settlement which arouse anger in Washington and Tel Aviv. Syria rejects separate deals, actively supports the national liberation struggle, Lebanese and Palestinian people's, and acts in favor of an international conference on the Near East.

The policy of Damascus has become stumbling block for the neoglobalist ploys of the U.S. Administration and its Israeli partner in this region. And it is no coincidence that Shim'on Peres said openly the other day that the chances of a settlement, meaning, of course, according to Washington's and Tel Aviv's scenario, would be zero, as long as Hafiz al-Asad rules Syria.

Neither Arab leaders, who defend the national interests of their peoples, nor their policies, which are aimed against the supremacy of imperialism, suit the aggressive circles of the United States and Israel.

CORRESPONDENT IN DAMASCUS REPORTS GOLAN HEIGHTS TENSION

LD181916 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0630 GMT 18 May 86

[Fron the "Foreign News" program, presented by Oleg Blinov]

[Text] [Blinov] Today U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger begins a visit to Western Europe. He intends in particular to take part in a session of the NATO Planning Group at the defense ministers level. The meeting will take place in detail about the plans of the Pentagon boss' trip, but will remark only on one aspect. Weinberger intends to make a special announcement to the NATO defense ministers about last month's U.S. aircraft bombing of Libyan towns. Thus, the anti-Libyan campaign unleashed by Washington continues.

At the same time, the U.S. Administration has begun crude attacks on Syria, accusing it of complicity with terrorist. Israel may become a direct executor of U.S. aggressive plans, it is supposed. We now have a link up with Damascus. I want to ask our correspondent, Kazbek Basiyev, how the tension that has arisen is being manifested on the contact line between the Israeli occupation troops and the Syrian forces.

[Basiyev] Oley (?Nikolayevich), I think that the new flare-up in this situation is caused, first of all, by the recent events in Libya in which the United States suffered a crushing defeat in its aggression against the Libyan people. It was exactly then that the U.S. military adventure was met by the most decisive protest in the Arab world, first and foremost from the recognized leader of the anti-imperialist struggle of Arab countries, Syria, which expressed its willingness to render comprehensive assistance to the fraternal Libyan Jamahiriyah. Syria claims that Washington and Tel Aviv have launched an official, true psychological war against Damascus. Lies and slander, as well as insinuation and fabrications about Syria's involvement in terrorism were put forth. Then direct threats, reinforced by specific actions, followed.

[Blinov] What do you mean by specific actions?

[Basiyev] Here are a few facts. The buildup of Israeli troops, including tanks, armored personnel carriers and various kinds of engineering equipment has begun in the Golan Heights in the (Jabal Asa'i) region. Passages through minefields have been opened. New military reinforcements are being set up intensively. Israeli troops have been deployed on the contact line next to the Syrian forces.

[Blinov] Yes, we also have information that about 27,000 Israeli servicemen and 1,800 tanks have been enlisted for aggression against Syria, or to be more exact, for the first stage, against Syrian troops in Lebanon. Tel Aviv intends, primarily, to frustrate Syrian attempts to settle the Lebanese crisis. The aggression against Syrian troops is in this case, a continuation and escalation of the war in Lebanon. How are Israeli leaders behaving?

[Basiyev] Israeli Defense Minister Rabin has informed representatives of the intelligence service in Washington that soon and I quote: Israel will teach Syria a lesson through military means. Israeli Prime Minister Peres also has threatened Damascus. A number of other representatives of civilian and military authorities have made such threats, including their day. [as heard] Syrian papers write that there is no doubt that these actions are being taken by Tel Aviv with the approval of Levi, Israeli Army chief of staff, after he completed the other day a trip around the so-called northern front. Syrian papers also write that no doubt exists that these actions are being taken by Tel Aviv with Washington's consent and support. U.S. national representatives, starting with President Reagan, are trying to convince the international public that Syria is involved in terrorist acts and, what is more, that the threat of war in the Near East comes from Damascus.

[Blinov] Thank you, Kazbek Gavrilovich.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

ARGENTINE PARLIAMENTARIAN PRAISES 'FRUITFUL' TALKS

LD162352 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 16 May 86

[Report from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The official visit to our country by Juan Carlos Pugliese, chairman of the chamber of deputies of the National Congress of the Republic of Argentina, has ended. Before his departure he spoke to a "Vremya" correspondent on the results of his visit to the Soviet Union.

[Begin Pugliese recording in Spanish, fading into Russian translation] The aim of our visit to the Soviet Union was to strengthen friendly links between the two parliaments, as well as to expand bilateral relations between our countries. Our visit was short, but very full and fruitful. Relations between our countries will now become stronger. We found a great deal of common ground. The Argentine people want peace and want to build a new life. They do not want confrontation to divide people. We have an interest in strengthening peace. [end recording]

Tolkunov Sees Off

LD170746 Moscow TASS in English 0701 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 17 TASS -- Juan Carlos Pugliese, president of the Chamber of Deputies of the National Congress of the Argentine Republic, left the Soviet Union today. He has stayed in the Soviet Union on an official visit as a guest of the chairmen of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet (parliament).

At the airport he was was seen off by Lev Tolkunov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and by other officials.

Before departure the guest gave a press conference. He expressed satisfaction with the results of the visit, emphasizing that the meetings and conversations with Soviet colleagues made it possible to exchange views on a wide range of topical international problems and once again confirmed the identity of Argentina's and the Soviet Union's views on principal matters. This applies, first of all, to the struggle for peace on earth. Juan Carlos Publiese referred to the extension by the Soviert Union of its unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests as a new and very important contribution to the realisation of th USSR's policy of strengthening peace.

NICARAGUA'S ORTEGA INTERVIEWED ON U.S. POLICY, ACTIONS

LD181617 Moscow TASS in English 1459 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] Managua May 18 TASS -- The decision to extend the unilateral nuclear test moratorium to next August 6, declared by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his speech over the Soviet TV network, has shown again that the USSR is in the vanguard of struggle for peaceful future of mankind, said Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega in his interview to Soviet journalists.

Washington's aggressive militarist course is looking more objectionable with every day against the background of tireless efforts for the sake of peace exerted by the Soviet Union. The White House spurns down any peace proposals and implements the "star wars" plans without thinking about the consequences of its irresponsible policy.

Dwelling at length on the situation in Central America, he said that Nicaragua-sponsored draft for tackling outstanding issues in "the act of peace" worked out by the Contadora Group, is a component part of its constructive course aimed at a peaceful settlement of the explosive situation in Central American engineered by U.S. crude interference in domestic affairs of the region's countries.

The Nicaraguan Government has clearly declared that the freeze and limitation of offensive weapons will be possible only in case all forms of foreign aggression against Central American states are stopped. The Reagan administration, D. Ortega noted, has no right whatsoever to demand the disarmament of Nicaragua which has been countering Washington's undeclared war for four years.

High-ranking White House officials are hypocritically talking about peace in Central American and support for the Contadora Group. Yet, in real fact, the USA is increasing its military pressure to bear on Nicaragua, deploying its troops near its border and is continuing military assistance to the hired Somozist gangs.

In its maniacal ambition to stifle the Sandinist people's revolution, Washington is drawing up plans of large-scale acts of terrorism against Nicaragua, including so-called "surgical operations" of the type of the criminal bombing raids on Libya, and is threatening direct military intervention against the republic.

The Nicaraguan people are daily suffering from the consequences of that unbridled policy of state-sponsored terrorism.

In face of the escalation of U.S. imperialism's aggression, Nicaragua must take care of its defence, Daniel Ortega said. The Nicaraguan government is pursuing a flexible policy, trying to contribute to the process of peaceful settlement, which is being held under the aegis of the Contadora Group and the support group. The republic's constrictive stand has clearly manifested itself in the decision to carry on discussions on the "peace act". Yet the USA, the president pointed out, which has set out to frustrate the Contadora Group's efforts, wishes to lay the blame for the possible failure of the talks on our country, to declare it to be an obstacle in the way towards peace in the region. Simultaneously, Washington's propaganda machine is trying to convince world public that regional settlement allegedly depends on the signing of the "peace act" on June 6 this year.

Lasting peace in Central America is impossible until the home and foreign security of all states in the region is ensured, Daniel Ortega stressed. An agreement between Cental American states on a settlement of the conflict will be really effective only if the United States ends its aggression against Nicaragua. At the same time, even in a peaceful situation the balance of the armed forces in Central America should be determined on the basis of the evaluation of the situation in each of the countries.

The Central American governments are to reach agreement between themselves what weapons should be considered offensive and what measures for the control of their limitation should be taken. At the same time it is necessary to guarantee the right of each of the countries to ensuring its defence capability. This is precisely the essence of the proposals tabled by Nicaragua at the meeting of representatives of the countries of Central America and the Contadora Group in Panama, Daniel Ortega pointed out.

TASS NOTES CONTRA LEADER'S SURRENDER IN COSTA RICA

LD171926 Moscow TASS in English 1902 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] San Jose May 17 TASS -- Eden Pastora, one of the chieftains of the "contra" forces which fought against Nicaragua from the territory of neighbouring Costa Rica, has surrendered to the Costa Rican authorities.

About 150 terrorists have laid down arms together with him by now.

Announcing his decision to end armed struggle against the Sandinist government, Pastora said that he saw no chance of achieving victory.

The counter-revolutionary leader thus reaffirmed the inevitability of all attemps to to apple Nicaragua's legitimate government.

The heads of other venal anti-Nicaraguan gangs acknowledged that Pastora's surrender attested to a profound crisis within the counter-revolutionary camp.

CUBAN AES EQUIPMENT DELIVERY CONTRACT SIGNED

LD191045 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] A contract has been signed in Havana for the coordinated delivery of equipment for the first stage of the Juragua AES, being built in Cuba with USSR technical assistance.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Hernandez, general director of the Energoimport association, stressed the great significance of the nuclear power station now under construction for the future of power generation in Cuba.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON CHERNOBYL REPORTED

PM161722 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 May 86 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS Report: "Press Conference for Soviet and Foreign Journalists: Faced With Mankind's Real Needs"]

[Excerpt] Soviet people have gratefully received the sympathy shown by international organizations, scientists, specialists, and ordinary people in foreign countries regarding the disaster that befell us -- the accident at the Chernobyl AES. Foreign doctors worked together with Soviet physicians at the front line of operations to eliminate the aftermath of the disaster. One of them, Prof Robert P. Gale of the University of California, addressed a press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists in Moscow on 15 May. A.I. Vorobyev, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, took part in the conversation with journalists at R. Gale's invitation. Dr Armand Hammer, well-known American businessman and public figure, who was in Moscow, attended the meeting.

When I recieved news about the Chernobyl accident, Professor Gale said, I immediately, on behalf of the International Bone Marrow Transplant Register, offered our Soviet colleagues help in assessing the degree of injury to the victims and in treating them. By the time that the group of American specialists arrived in Moscow, Professor Gale observed, Soviet doctors had already assessed the situation and recommended treatment for 35 people who had received a high dose of radiation. They readily accepted our suggestions about involving other countries in consultations and the dispatch of medical equipment and preparations.

State and private medical establishments in 15 countries responded to our requests, the American doctor said. He noted the high level of special equipment available in Moscow clinics, which made it possible to conduct complex operations quickly and achieve success in treating serious injuries. Nineteen bone-marrow transplants have been carried out.

It will take several more months to fully evaluate the medical consequences of the accident, the professor stated. We have agreed, he stressed, to hold constant Soviet-U.S. consultations and efforts in this sphere and to publish jointly the results of our work as soon as possible. We have agreeed on the necessary measures to enhance the level of scientific and medical readiness for nuclear accidents. We jointly propose that all governments conduct a critical evaluation of their individual and collective efforts in this sphere since damage to a nuclear reactor is not only a national but also an international calamity whose scale may prove to be beyond the resources and experience of any one nation.

On behalf of his colleagues, scientists, and physicians, Professor Gale expressed readiness to take all the necessary measures to save the victims.

Replying to journalists' questions, R. Gale noted the high degree of readiness of his Soviet colleagues and medical institutions to cope with what had happened. He stated that their preliminary assessment of the radiation doses and their treatment methods were as correct as possible. I am not afraid to cite the heroic work of those people who risked their lives to save their fellow countrymen, the scientist stressed.

According to the American doctor the most important lesson of the Chernobyl accident was that it showed that science and medicine know no national frontiers. And there is another conclusion to be drawn: The events of the past few weeks have highlighted our limited potential for responding to nuclear catastrophes.

And if anyong believes that it will be possible to provide rapid assistance in a nuclear war, unfortunately, that cannot be guaranteed.

A Finnish radio correspondent asked which groups of occupations had suffered most. A group of firemen suffered most of all, A.I. Vorobyev replied. These people know what kind of fire they were fighting, he said, they know that the threat to them was not from the fire at all but from the radiation. But they fought it. And they extinguished it. During those minutes they saved all our lives. People ask us: What lessons have been learned from the first few minutes of the accident? Were the members of the special firefighting unit equipped with everything that they needed? Undoubtedly they possessed the relevant equipment. This is such a major service and it analyzes and ponders protection systems so thoroughly that it has of course learned all the lessons from what happened. But this is something we often forget: All accidents are hard to predict. Although the present accident may be over it is virtually impossible to prepare for the next one. Military men call this "preparing for the war that has just ended." As for the question of the representative of Britain's THE GUARDIAN, Professor A.I. Vorobyev continued, in which he asked whether the group of people hospitalized with serious injuries included residents of the settlements of Chernobyl, Pripyat, and other centers in the 30-km zone, I can tell you this: The casualties who received a dangerous dose included no residents of nearby settlements. They have all been carefully examined and the radiation of their clothing and thyroid glands has been measured. The results of these examinations, in which I took part, revealed no case of a threat of sickness. Could the Chernobyl accident cause instances of radiation sickness in other countries? Such a possibility has been compltely ruled out.

A. Hammer came to the meeting with journalists straight from the hospital where the struggle is continuing to save the lives and health of the victims of the accident. As a doctor and a medical worker, he stated, I was deeply moved by this humanitarian joint action by the doctors and by their heroic efforts, which made it possible to save many of the casualties. The Soviet specialists are experienced doctors, working in magnificently well-equipped hospitals. I remember very clearly, A. Hammer continued, the events of 65 years ago. I was only 23 years old, and I visited parts of Russian in the grip of hunger and a typhus epidemic at the time. I remember a meeting with V.I. Lenin and his words on the importance of restoring trade between our countries. When Dr Gale informed me of his proposal to visit the USSR, I at once sent a telegram to Mr M.S. Gorbachev. The reply came without delay: Yes, we will receive Dr Gale. Then the scientist sent out orders for medical supplies and equipment, which were responded to in many countries, including the United States. The American people and the peoples of the whole world wanted to help Soviet people in this difficult hour, A. Hammer said.

Were there any grounds for certain Western countries to adopt the decision to limit and even bann imports of agricultural products from the USSR and other socialist countries? - correspondents asked Professor A.I. Vorobyev.

"In my view, the answer is obvious to anyone. For products contaminated with radioactivity are not products with potassium cyanide inside. It is very easy to check all this. Every customs office possesses appropriate instruments to determine the degree of pollution of products with radioactive isotopes. As is known, we all give off a little radiation and, of course, products do too. But there are definite international normatives, and an elementary check makes it possible to distinguish a polluted product from a clean one at the very moment of its dispatch to another country. But it is not even a matter of what administrative measures could be taken to change the rules of international trade in such cases. Today this strikes us doctors, in general, as a trifle when faced with mankind's real needs in the event of a major nuclear catastrophe. In this connection I would like to support the line and the spirit that Professor Gale injected into this press conference: The accident has shown us the pressing need for cooperation, and not only in scientific spheres.

IZVESTIYA Reporter Visits Site

PM161721 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 May 86 Morning Edition p 3

[Special correspondent Andrey Illesh report: "Special Zone. IZVESTIYA's Special Correspondent Reports From the Area of Damaged Reactor Four at the Chernobyl AES"]

[Text] IZVESTIYA was the first to be able to directly reach the station site where the emergency work is under way. The special zone. Everything started like this...

"...Hello, Hello! Give me the administrative building," Aleksandr Sergeyevich Kupriyanov shouted down the line. He was phoning from Chernobyl, from the headquarters of the government commission and, at the newspaper's request, was seeking V.A. Brezhnev, minister of transport construction. It was his specialists among others who had come to the banks of the Pripyat from all corners of the country in the very first days. Subway building workers from Kiev and Moscow, specialists in drilling and tunneling, and surveyors from Kharkov, Gorkiy, Kuybyshev, and Dnepropetrovsk, people from the Baykal-Amur Main Railroad...

"The people are at the site. You can go through." On the Volga's side window was a pass and a red circle indicating the right to travel in the zone.

So we were on the road from Chernobyl to the AES building. At the roadside were fire trucks and enormous bulldozers, people in special clothing were bustling about, and soldiers could be seen resting beside tents set out in neat checkerboard order. We passed Lelev Village. Alongside, outside the car window, spring was in full bloom. Violet lilac shrubs were bursting over the fences as if short of space. The gardens were covered in white and pink -- apple and cherry blossoms. The intensity of the entirely intangible danger was seemingly emphasized by the empty houses, the closed cattle sheds, and the deserted streets and fields. Beyond the village was one of the final entry control points into the zone.

We finally braked outside the administrative building at the Chernobyl AES. Making my way past the specialized vehicles, I went into the building. There was a document check and then it was downstairs into the basement. The Ministry of Transport Construction headquarters.

The people rushing onto the next shift were already dressed with every protective device. I saw others resting right here on mattresses, sitting at the table, and clicking dominoes. I went farther and farther, past office desks that seemed so unusual in this situation with their signs saying "Ministry of Power and Electrification" and "Department Such and Such." I met a tall man in special clothing. He straightened his eyeglasses and said: "Are you from IZVESTIYA?" Had he recognized me right away? But my bewilderment was short-lived. Indeed, I still stuck out a mile: The Leica round my neck and my leather jacket marked me as an outsider.

"Get changed," the minister said, and I pulled on the necessary uniform and fastened the leather straps on my high boots with upturned rubber soles. I fastened the buttons up to my chin on a brand new jacket -- the buttonholes were still tight. I covered my head with a canvas cloak above my "doctor's" white cap.

This change of clothes not only saves you from unseen problems but also makes the journalist "one of the team." It is as if the correspondent is already on the job. And consequently, everything's OK. No need to stand on ceremony, you can talk openly and directly to him without holding anything back.

The minister was called to the telephone (the ubiquitous phone lines can even reach the chief here) and I walked up to the controller [dispatcher] standing alongside.

"Yevgeniy Fedotovich Tymchik. Job -- duty officer at the Ministry of Transport Construction. Normally I work as head of a section of the Kievmetrostroy. Place of work -- behind a desk in the basement. I work 12 hours on, 12 hours off, alternating with another man. Our task is to maintain operational contact between the construction site and the headquarters, the Ministry of Transport Construction, and all other subdivisions. Communicating where people are to be dispatched to, who needs pipes or equipment -- everything through the controller. Sometimes we have to go to the site too." The minister comes up: "I see, is the correspondent already in the picture?" "Well no, I just have a general idea..." "First things first then. Why, in particular, has such a quantity of unique equipment been brought together here? Why have specialists, leaving behind their own work, come to Pripyat? The aim of our work, and the work of other ministries' services that are operating alongside, is the creation of another safety 'system' (this has already been reported in the newspaper). A protective 'cushion' is to 'grow' under the damaged reactor. For this purpose a foundation trench has been dug and strengthened with piles in the immediate vicinity of the damaged unit. This work was carried out under the leadership of Ye. N. Pustokhod, head of the Mostostroy I Trust, and Kievmetrostroy...V.A Plokhikh, head of the ministry's special operations administration, headed 150 men who arrived from Moscow with 3 drilling machines..." "Your can imagine," the minister went on with his story, "the extremely difficult conditions under which these people began their work! Everything was just like a real battle. Specialists reconnoitered, checking radiation levels and determining whether it was altogether possible to get in there yet. Only after that did work begin in earnest. The situation is not straightforward today, either. Even the foundtion trench is accessible only by means of specialized transport..." Just at that point, the report came in: The armored personnel carrier is ready. Vladimir Arkadyevich got up: "Time to go." The entire trip takes only about 10 minutes. But this distance is fraught with unseen danger. The point is that even here, right next to the station's damaged power unit, radiation is not evenly spread across the entire area. It looks as if it has "pock-marked" the soil. Nothing in some places, quite dense in others.

A strange feeling -- a uniform which hinders movement, air whistling through the respirator... The first to get in the personnel carrier was the driver ("Who am I? Just Sergey from Chernigov.") Then the minister ("Please sit here. The view is better from the front seat.") And finally the correspondent. The engine came to life and the armor shield slowly rose, bringing the inspection glass into the line of vision. We swung about and, panting like a huge animal, moved forward alaong the road to the foundation trench. An instrument to measure external radiation, slightly resembling a taximeter but fitted out with dials, was attached beneath my feet. The dial's needle, moving slightly off the zero, hovered around a totally innocent reading. I looked at Brezhnev in puzzlement.

"Everything here is in order. As for what lies ahead -- you will see for yourself." And I did see. At the spot where our vehicle almost halted to let a huge oncoming truck pass us, on an aeea covering just a few meters, the needle suddenly raced forward and was held back by the counter's "end stop." But our driver was experienced, this was not his first trip. A change of gear, and the instrument's needle again fell back to an innocuous position. We stopped. We opened the hatches and jumped out. Behind us, as if providing cover, was the wall of the AES's No 3 power unit. Beneath us was the foundation trench, with people visible inside it.

"If only I had a camera!" -- I thought. No one has ever taken such photographs. But, right back on the approaches to the administration unit, specialists took a look at my "Leica" and said: "I would not take any state propoerty there if I were you, lad.

They even took the watch off one of us -- the radioactivity check afterwards is a serious matter." Could it be that I had been too careful with editorial office equipment in vain? It was too late now, though, and my notes -- scribbles in a notebook on my knees -- offer the only picture from the heart of the special zone.

...We descended along the steep sandy bank toward the drill operators. The minister embarked on a "specialized" conversation with a driller and I, feeling somewhat uneasy, began my own conversation.

The uniform is again working miracles! Once you are dressed like that, once you are there -- it means that a little time can be spent with you. Even though time here is strictly counted -- in terms of minutes. Operations are regulated by the very same doctors and instrument readings. Fedor Kirillovich Tsimokh, chief of the Kievmetrostroy No 3 Construction and Assembly Administration, introduced me to the foreman, the surveyor, and the drill operators, and he pointed out the welder who, almost completely hanging inside the foundation trench, marks his work position with sparks flying from under the welding tool's "point"...

A shift here lasts 5 hours. On the one hand, the need to leave the zone once you have done your time "looms over " people; on the other hand Fedor Kirillovich would like to extend this time. After all, everyone here understands that far too much depends on the pace (and quality!) of their present labor. And I recall what I was told before I traveled to the zone, back in Chernobyl, by I.S. Silayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers: "It is difficult to overestimate the importance of the work being done now in the area of the damaged No 4 power unit. It really is like being on the front line there..." And I did see the exertion of efforts being made on this front line by foreman Nikolay Petrovich Korol, metalworker Yevgeniy Syrnikov, welder Bursa, and electrician Rubanenko. The drilling machine was started up again, filling the "pan" of the foundation trench with the noise of a construction site. I saw the minister turning back and pointing his thumb upwards. Later he would explain that the shift had rated "excellent" for its performance. Now, under these exceptional circumstances, every achievement is worth three times its value. No idle time at all must be tolerated. All who are engaged in the accident repair work are perfectly aware of this. That which has been left undone by you means a double and treble burden on your comrade's shoulders. God forbid that he -- the one that finished off your work -- should catch your eye in the evening, when he is carefully studying the readings on his personal dosimeter...

...I look round and I see this powerful looking guy trying to be smart. He pulls off his respirator and puts a cigarette in his mouth. People wave their fists at him, but his comrades are smiling, you can tell by their eyes, and waving their hands: Everyone knew there would be no violations. Moving somewhat to one side, they lean toward one another, to be able to hear better, and have a conversation with the big boss.

Concentrated effort (and what effort!) -- academicians, generals, sector leaders, and the leading experts in their fields -- this is the "Chernobyl headquarters." And it is here that "headquarters' decisions" are being carried out. The very complex operations are being carried out for the first time in world practice by experts, of course. Not for nothing are they being sought all over the country.

But here is a strange thing: I was quite calm when I saw the needle start to fall back. There was no shiver down my spine. Not that one adapted rapidly to the situation, no. It was an extraordinary situation! The tranquillity was engendered by the atmosphere that reigned in the foundation trench and the confidence came from Sergey from Chernigov, who was bending over the "wheel" and who knew the entire path to the reactor by heart, and the dozens of people I had to let through at the entrance in front of the glass doors of the AES adminstrative building -- they were hurrying to work too.

I do not want to play it down -- the job all these people are doing is really dangerous. But they are fully aware of the danger while they do the job.

...We meticulously wiped our feet on a rag lying in a galvanized container at the very entrance to the AES administrative block. We also took off and threw on a heap in the corner our special plastic stockings that covered our shoes and legs. The pile rapidly grew with the returning shift and disappeared just as rapidly -- all items affected by radioactive dust were removed instantly. The familiar path led down into the basement. But first I went upstairs instead. I took off the plastic stocking and I had to leave my other clothes as well. I joined some young guys, already chortling at some joke, in an enormous shower room. Everything was left behind, even souvenirs in the shape of a respirator or "doctor's white hat: The radiation monitors at the entrance and exit would not let them through.

The powerful jets of water hit my shoulders. I caught myself watching the water flow into a drain and disappear beneath the floor. Here's the stupid thing: Obviously, you cannot see radioactivity, but you are longing to sse something. The inspection did not show up anything in particular, either: The radiation monitors' instruments confirmed it -- normal. Normal for the spcial zone, that is. But that is the situation people are living and working in. Many of them, too. On descending, I saw the domino players again with their crew cuts, eating "borshch" straight from the can, and I had a "professional" conversation with the surveyor. He uses humor in an attempt to conceal his professional pride and talks of his unfortunate speciality: "Surveyors, what are they? They are the first on the scene, marking out the job. Then they wait for the work to finish. I have been sitting waiting for ages." He is not waiting, he is just joking: There is something for everyone to do. Urgent work too, important immediate work. It requires effort, skill, and bold scientific decisions by an enormous number of people over many days.

When you hear the words "exploit," "heroism," and other synonyms, when you write them in your notebook with your ballpoint pen, you remember that these words are not mentioned in the special zone. But it is the only way to describe what is going on here. People are performing feats here today, at the AES. It would be a pity if their true heroism were eroded by journalistic raptures. It is sufficient to give an honest account of what they are doing.

AT Chernobyl we were stopped by doctors outside the headquarters building: "You must see our specialists, Vladimir Arkadyevich," L.A. Ilin, vice president of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, said to Brezhnev.

We parted. I was unexpectedly approached by someone who had just arrived here and was not yet familiar with the situation with the doctors: "Tell me," he asked, holding a respirator "lobe" in his hands, "I have to find out where this comrade was working in a respirator." And I, now so "experienced," replied: "In the foundation trench. Exactly 165 meters from the damaged reactor."

Explosion 'Insignificant' on Nuclear Scale

LD161912 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 16 May 86

[Statement by Yevgeniy Pavlovich Velikhov, vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences to station correspondent in Chernobyl]

[Text] We have here come up against an event which, compared to the scale of the nuclear war being planned, let us say, by the United States and the West, is of insignificant size. And we can see what are, in general the consequences for people.

The whole country is helping, but difficulties arise. We are well aware that not all other countries in the world have the capabilities that we do here. Therefore, people who are planning a nuclear war are people living with a cave-man mentality in the nuclear age. And now we can see how difficult it is to restrain them.

For that reason, I think that the step taken by the Soviet Union is a step not only addressed to governments, but a step addressed to the peoples and to each person. Each person must understand that the Soviet Union is not seeking any kind of advantage here, not seeking any kind of unilateral superiority and that this is a very well thought-out step and one that shows our degree of responsibility, our extreme responsibility for the destiny of the world. Because, you see, the scale of this explosion, if you measure it on a nuclear scale, then by the scale of destruction it is insignificant. It is more like conventional weapons than nuclear ones. By the scale of the discharge at the beginning and the rest of the destruction, it was indeed small compared to all possible military explosions.

For that reason I believe that in his speech, Mikhail Sergeyevich correctly assessed its significance and our next steps, both those we can see here in the locality and those that must be taken by the entire country in order to raise the safety of nuclear power and rule out the possibility of a repetition of such an event for the whole world both as concerns nuclear power and as concerns the establishment of nuclear weapons.

We had two phases. The first one was the extinguishing of the fire. The second phase was the elimination of the probability of any kind of repetition of further activity in the reactor. The fire was extinguished and there was not repetition.

But there is a third phase -- as far as its scale and the necessity of work organization is concerned, much more than we have done will have to be done in order to heal the wounds inflicted by the catastrophe. The radiation situation is now improving. There is no additional radioactive fallout in the atmosphere at present. I say yet again that in order to guarantee the safety of all the population, our main task is to check everything. Here is a photograph: [words indistinct] of this reactor instead of a crater. The temperature inside is basically the same as outside. There is one small spot. Even it is at about 300 degrees [as heard], and we are monitoring it. We have to prepare for rain so that it will not get wet: A great deal of work is being carried to ensure this.

If in the past there was, so to speak, an emergency approach, then now, on the contrary, a very carefully thought-out approach and interaction among all participants, and smooth work are needed.

'Protective Cushion' Being Built

LD1616845 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 16 May 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] It is reported from the Chernobyl AES area that the headquarters and government commission that are directing the elimination of the consequences of the accident are working round the clock here. Work to build another safety system is under way in the direct vicinity to the damaged fourth reactor. A protective cushion is to be built under the damaged reactor.

Labor rhythm has been established in the areas to which residents have been temporarily evacuated from the 30-km zone.

The party and local soviet bodies and public organizations of the Ukraine are continuing to receive thousands of letters and telegrams expressing sympathy and support for the victims and people's readiness to assume some of the material care for people from the Chernobyl zone. Already tens of thousands of rubles have arrived for account No 904 of the USSR State Bank.

Silayev: 'Sarcophagus' Being Built

LD171749 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 17 May 86

[Interview with Ivan Silayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, by unidentified correspondent on 17 May; place not given; from the "Vremya" newscast -- recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Could you describe the current situation on the elimination of the aftereffects of the accident at the Chernobyl AES?

[Silayev] At a previous meeting some days ago, we spoke about the fact that a turning point had been reached. Currently, one can say that we are consolidating those positions. Practically all key components of the reactor are cool today. There is, inevitably, some heat in its center, around the 200-250 degree mark. This is due to the further cooling of those individual elements and pieces. We are not just carrying out observation, but also active measures. We are pumping in nitrogen around the clock. Today it can be said that we are already fully including the matter of cooling all remaining parts of the reactor. Today we are calm, and convinced that there will not be any return, or any rise or change in temperature. At the moment, first of all, we have been impressed by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's address. For our part, we have concluded that there is still tense and lengthy work ahead and that our main task today is to preserve the health of the people surrounding us and who are in adjacent areas. Then, essentially, considering the first question, the most important question, that of removing the threat of any complications or any further repetitions, since we have removed this threat, we have closed this question. We are now concentrating our attention on eliminating the effect of the residue of radioactive contamination on the health of people.

What is on the agenda at the moment is discussion of the program to construct a sarcophagus, as we are calling it. It is a huge container, let us say, which will enable us to secure the burial of everything that remains of the radioactive fallout, of this entire accident in general, so that it can be reliably contained and supervised and not give rise to any doubts whatsoever. These are the two directions we are working in: the first is the decontamination, the elimination of the contaminated sectors step by step, and the second is implementing measures for containment.

I have just returned from the station itself. I visited various parts, including the zone where our miners, headed by the minister, have been instructed to create the final line of defense. For that they need to dig a tunnel, of the type used in underground railway construction, reach the reactor zone, and build a concrete cooling bed that will form an element, a component of the sarcophagus, and will provide a reliable defense against any phenomena that could represent a threat to the soil.

[Correspondent] Could we call it a concrete cushion?

[Silayev] Let us say a cushion filled with all kinds of heat-exchanging cooling devices. Well, I have talked to miners there and miners are miners -- they are energetic, fearless people.

I asked them what questions they had, what problems they had. Nobody named any problems. They have a very strict timetable. They have to do the digging at high speeds. Everyone says: We will do it.

We have been to the so-called bunker. It is the center, right at the station, of directing all actions in all parts of the station. It is a shelter adapted for this purpose. Efficient work is in progress. Some of the shift-members are resting, some of them are getting ready, some are eating, some are undergoing medical checks. And whomever you speak to, they say: We understand what the homeland requires of us and we will do it all. Therein lies the heroism of our Soviet man.

[Video shows Silayev, dressed in a windbreaker with a radiation dose shield pinned on, sitting across a table from a correspondent in a room. This is intercut with a brief sequence of aerial shots from a helicopter, showing tree-lined streets with blocks of flats. Except for a truck and what appears to be a fire engine driving out of the shot, in a direction opposite to the helicopter's course, the streets appear empty. Next there is a variety of shots of the damaged reactor building, as the helicopter flies around it. A man without any special protective clothing can be briefly seen inside the helicopter.]

Further on Silayev Remarks

PM161619 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 May 86 First Edition p 6

[Correspondent Colonel A. Polyakov article under the rubric "Exploit Location -- Chernobyl AES": "Communists Setting the Example"]

[Excerpt] We have covered several hundred kilometers in the last few days along the roads linking Chernobyl with Kiev and the rayon centers. Traffic along the highways proceeds at a measured and precise pace, reflecting the atmosphere of businesslike efficiency prevailing now at the nuclear power station and around it.

"We had the situation under control within a fairly brief period of time and are now on top of it," I.S. Silayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, said in a covnersation with us. "We are continuing the cooling of the reactor and the reinforcement of foundations beneath it. One of the main tasks now is to carry out complete decontamination of the station and the surrounding area. People are prepared to do anything to perform this work as swiftly as possible, but we have no right to run rash risks. This is why we are acting calmly and seeking the most rational solutions.

"It was said in M.S. Gorbachev's speech on Soviet television that everyone -- fire fighters, transportation workers, construction workers, medical personnel, specialized chemical protection units, helicopter crews, and other subunits of the Ministry of Defense and the MVD -- have undergone and are still undergoing a severe examination." I asked I.S. Silayev to say something about the servicemen.

"Their actions are beyond all praise," I.S. Silayev replied. "Take Captain Zborovskiy for example. An amazingly brave man. He was at the reactor together with power station workers to open the special slide-valves there, which enabled us to confirm the presence of water and pump it out. By virtue of the authority vested in me I have already rewarded [pooshchril] the officer, but I think that people like him deserve the highest awards. Even though, of course, they are not working under extreme conditions just for the sake of awards."

Death Toll Reported at 13

AU161458 Paris AFP in English 1448 GMT 16 May 86

[Excerpt] Moscow, May 16 (AFP) -- The death toll from the Chernobyl nuclear accident rose to 13 Friday, according to a toll given here by U.S. bone marrow transplant expert Doctor Robert Gale.

Before leaving for the United States Dr. Gale said 24 of the 35 people who suffered serious radiation doses were still alive. Two technicians died in the April 26 accident when a reactor exploded at the Ukrainian plant and according to Dr. Gale's figures 11 of the 300 injured have died since.

Dr. Gale was speaking after PRAVDA reported Friday that a plant foreman injured in the explosion had died taking the official toll to 10. The doctor said Thursday that more of the seriously ill were expected to die. He heads an international bone marrow exchange group, and went to Moscow to help Chernobyl victims.

Blix Cited on Situation

LD170856 Moscow TASS in English 0821 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Prague, May 17 TASS -- It is absolutely clear today that the situation in Chernobyl is under control. There is no threat of a chain reaction, and the temperature in the reactor is falling, Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said in a RUDE PRAVO interview. We highly appreciate the Soviet Union's promise to make a thorough analysis of the causes of the accident and of its consequences.

Touching upon the world press coverage of the accident at the Soviet nuclear power plant, Hans Blix deplored the use of unchecked reports and often even of inventions by some publications. The press of Sweden, my homeland, went so far as to frontpage a report that in visiting the USSR I had received a dose of radiation exceeding the level admissible for a member of the personnel of a nuclear power plant in the course of a whole year. I had to go through a medical examination. It has shown that the radiation dose in my body was not above the one a person usually gets in dental X-ray photography.

When staying in Moscow and Chernobyl we received truthful information about the state of things. We wished to gain experience, and to learn what could be done to further improve safety at nuclear power plants all over the world. In consulting Soviet representatives, we have drawn the conclusion that there are possibilities to take the necessary measures on the basis of international cooperation. I am glad that Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, touched upon these issues. The information he gave about the causes of the accident is valuable.

During the talks in Moscow we have discussed some technical issues concerning safety and taking measures that would in the event of an accident lessen its consequences and lower the risk of a misfortune. The Soviet Union is ready for cooperation on the basis of our agency. This means that international cooperation may bring about valuable results, Hans Blix stressed in conclusion.

Coal, Transport Ministers Interviewed

LD182014 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 18 May 86

[Vladimir Mikhaylenko report from Chernobyl]

[Excerpts] One meets the most varied kinds of people, sometimes unexpected, in Chernobyl. Here on Sovetskaya Ulitsa is where the Ministry of the Coal Industry and the Ministry of Transport Construction have installed their headquarters. The minister of transport construction, Vladimir Arkadiyevich Brezhnev, and the minister of the coal industry, Mikhail Ivanovich Shchadov are working shoulder to shoulder, as the phrase goes. The first to come here to Chernobyl were the transport construction workers. They were the first people after the firefighters to enter the danger zone once the fire at the No 4 reactor was put out.

Vladimir Arkadiyevich, could you tell us some more about that difficult time?

[Brezhnev] The task facing the team fron the Transport Constructon Ministry was to consolidate, using a freezing method employing liquid nitrogen, a layer of ground in the vicinity of the No 4 reactor unit. The level of radiation was such that it was not possible to work a full 8 hours. We worked for 3, 4, or a maximum of 5 hours at a time. In those tricky conditions people displayed heroism, carrying on until the work was completely finished.

[Mikhaylenko] How did you get those people here, Vladimir Arkadiyevich?

[Brezhnev] People were collected directly from sites where tunnelling was in progress. They were brought straight here by bus because the work needed to be done very urgently.

[Mikhaylenko] And where did they come from?

[Brezhnev] From Kiev, from the Baykal-Amur Mainline, from Kharkov, from the Caucasus. We have assembled specialists from all over the country. I should say that the transport construction workers here have risen to the occasion and it is a pleasure and an honor for me to be in charge of such a splendid team.

And now here comes my partner Shchadov. Hello there, Mikhail Ivanovich.

[Shchadov] Hello there.

[Mikhaylenko] Before you arrived, Vladimir Arkadiyevich was saying that the transport construction workers are now handing over the main thrust of the work to the miners. What are the coal industry workers doing now?

[Shchadov] The main task we have to tackle is to lay a raft measuring 30 by 30 under the reactor on which a system for cooling the reactor will be installed. We have dug a trench and from there we will be driving a horizontal shaft. This is a big job and a complicated one because the ground ... the sand is waterlogged. We will have to proceed very carefully. For this reason, engineering and design specialists have elaborated a detailed scheme for boring, laying the concrete, and assembling the whole system.

[Mikhaylenko] How will you be doing this tunneling work? By hand?

[Shchadov] We will be using a tunneling shield. When we get under the building, however, and we are removing earth to install the raft, then we will have to work by hand.

[Mikhaylenko] I understand that 140 miners from the Tula basin were flown in by Aeroflot.

[Shchadov] Well, given that the tunneling conditions here are very complicated and that roughly similar conditions exist at mines under construction in Tula Oblast, we decided to invite tunnel drillers from Tula Oblast to come here.

[Mikhaylenko] People with the required experience?

[Shchadov] Yes. These were people who came voluntarily. When it was announced that 145 people were needed and groups of working people were asked about who would be able to go and help to eliminate the consequences of the accident, several times that number of people volunteered.

[Mikhaylenko] So you picked the cream of the crop?

[Shchadov] Yes, the very best with the right experience and those who were aware of the kind of work they were going to face and the level of its difficulty. Whatever difficulties there might be, the schedule fixed by the chairman of the state commission will be met without fail.

[Mikhaylenko] The schedule is apparently very tight?

[Shchadov] We have a very tight schedule. According to standard procedures, we estimated that this work would require 45 days, but time is pressing and we were given 30 days. The miners themselves, however -- and I agree with this -- say we will complete the work in 25 days.

Journalists Visit Area

LD151013 Moscow TASS in English 0956 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Kiev May 15 TASS -- A TASS special correspondent reports from the Chernobyl nuclear power station:

Soviet correspondents today were allowed for the first time to visit the Chernobyl nuclear power station. Our itinerary was strictly defined: first a medical control station, where we changed our clothing and underwent a gasometric check, then a change of vehicles as we got into armored personnel carriers which reduce the danger of radioactive exposure and make travel quicker.

The first thing that struck me was that every group was busy doing a specific job of its own. If it is needed to join the efforts, for example, of power experts and builders, the instructions come in advance from the headquarters of a government commission through the operations staff at the station.

Today where were some 50 workers of shift duty at the first three generating sets, excluding repairmen. Those at the control panel were recording the parameters of the reactors' operation. Though the latter are shut down, the station keeps living even in this condition.

Operators were busy at the central control board of the station. Water supply services were ensuring quality purification of water. The temperature regime was being strictly observed. Fire and radiation safety were being closely monitored.

The workshop of underground fuel utilities was functioning at an even pace. The people were working clamly, answering questions, smiling. The most often spoken word the journalists heard in reply to their questions was "normalno" ("Everything is O.K.").

On the territory of the station, lorries were bringing concrete to unit 4 every few minutes. Armoured personel carriers were coming and going. Several people were seen walking.

The journalists were told that, according to radiological tests of the air above the nuclear power station, the radiation level dropped nearly by a ratio of four to one over the past three days.

'SERIOUS SHORTCOMINGS' AT CHEMICAL WORKS NOTED

LD171436 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee has adopted a decision on the article "How Much Is One To Take Upon Oneself?," published in PRAVDA on 20 April 1986.

The decision notes that the facts set out in the article have, upon being checked, been confirmed. Serious shortcomings in the work of the party bureau, the secretary of which is Dzergachev; and of the administration, the director of which is Polyakov, whose fault it is that an unhealthy situation has come about within the workforce and that the introduction of much that is progressive is being held back, have come to light at the Irbit Chemical and Pharmaceutical works in Sverdlovsk Oblast.

Numerous questions of development of production and of accelerating scientific and technological progress are being solved unsatisfactorily at the enterprise; obsolete equipment is being replaced slowly; social problems have grown acute; the number of those who require housing has gone up; production and administration premises are in a state of neglect.

Due to conditions facilitating the cause of workers and engineers working with initiative and creativity have not been set up at the works. Progressive undertakings fail to meet with the essential practical support, encountering resistance in a number of cases. It is thus that an energetic and qualified leader, Bakharev, head of a frontranking shop, was fired -- an undeservedly severe punishment. As the article correctly emphasizes, he had to pay the price for the fact that he strove to work in a new way.

The CPSU Central Committee has deemed the activities of the party bureau of the Irbit Chemical and Pharmaceutical works, which gave rise to the conflict within the workforce, and the party bureau's persecution of the Communist Bakharev to be a crude violation of the Leninist norms of party life. Those guilty had deserved the punishment meted out to them.

The CPSU Central Committee has made it incumbent upon the Sverdlovsk obkom to establish appropriate order in the work involving working people's letters and statements, and to bring party proceedings against those guilty of the bureaucratic consideration given to Communist Bakharev's letter.

DEPUTY OIL MINISTER DISCUSSES INDUSTRY'S PERFORMANCE

PM131846 Moscow TRUD in Russian 13 May 86 p 1

[V. Raskin interview with V.Yu. Filanovskiy-Zenkov, USSR first deputy minister of the petroleum industry, under the rubric "Interviewing Laggards": "Making Up the Shortfall"]

[Text] The collectives of the USSR Ministry of the Petroleum Industry have been working hard both last year and this year. But, unfortunately, they have failed to meet the targets. And this is affecting the work pace of other sectors of the national economy. What are the reasons for the lag? What steps are being taken to make up for the shortfall? Our correspondent V. Raskin put these questions to V.Yu. Filanovskiy-Zenkov, USSR first deputy minister of the petroleum industry.

During the January-April period all the labor collectives' efforts were channeled into eliminating the shortfall in oil extraction. We can look back on 4 months of intensive work. Much has been achieved, but, nonetheless, we have fallen short of the plan by 3,266,200 metric tons of oil since the beginning of the year. Of 34 associations the following failed to meet plan targets: Noyarbrskneftegaz, Nizhnevartovskneftegaz, Varyeganneftegaz, and Tatneft (in Tyumen oblast).

I would like to say a few words about Nizhnevartovskneftegaz -- the sector's biggest enterprise -- in particular. The collective was unable to meet the set targets over a long period of time. The measures adopted enabled the association to reach the daily extraction target on 22 April. A first success.

A tendency to work better is emerging among oil workers. Allow me to cite the following figures: During the January-April period, 4,322 new oil wells were commissioned under the ministry, 2,540 of them in Tyumen Oblast. This is 32 percent more than during the corresponding period last year.

What specific steps have been taken to enable Glavtyumenneftegaz to change from a laggard to a leading enterprise? Over the 4 months 17 new oil deposits were commissioned in West Siberia. In order to give readers an idea of the colossal work that has been done, I will cite the following figures for the sake of comparison: During the first 4 years of the last 5-year polan 14 deposits were commissioned and in 1985 it was 13. This dynamism shows what efforts are being made to improve matters.

Steady, rhythmical work at oil fields depends largely on the standard of work of the teams in charge of overhauling oil wells. It is these collectives in particular which are called upon to spare no effort in order to ensure that there are no above-norm outages in the sector, that work proceeds without interruptions.

However, there are questions which we can resolve only in a joint effort with allied collectives. The USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification is lagging in the construction of external power supply facilities. The oil workers have been let down by the Sumgait pipe manufacturers. Around 7 percent of the pipes supplied by them are substandard. Just imagine what it costs to ship them to West Siberia.

Great importance is attached to the dissemination of the experience of the pacesetters of socialist competition, the people who have been nominated for the title of 1986 USSR State Prize winners.

CSA REPORTS GROWTH IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

LD141206 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0330 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Results of industrial work have been summed up for January-April. According to the USSR Central Statistical Administration, the overall volume of industrial output compared with the same period last year went up by 6.3 percent, and 94 percent of the outpout growth was achieved through increased labor productivity. All union republics and industrial ministries except the Ministry of the Petroleum Industry coped with their tasks. At the same time, there was some lagging behind for certain types of output. Less synthetic ammonia, soda ash, large electric machines, and alternating current electric engines, as well as trunk-line passenger coaches and buses were produced than planned.

MOSCOW TELEVISION EXAMINES CONSTRUCTION DELAYS

LD151332 [Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0615 GMT on 15 May broadcasts a 15-minute program by Vladimir Nazarov entitled "What is the Cost of Building Delays?"

Nazarov begins by pointing out that building delays, low construction rates, and the consequent dissipation of resources are a heavy burden on the country's economy. During the past 5-year plan, construction delays in the RSFSR cost the state almost R150 billion. Everyone feels the weight of the burden in the low level of comfort in everyday life at work and at home, in the fact that new machinery is not installed at enterprises, and in the fact that there is a shortfall in shops of high-quality products equal to world standards from the machine building ministries and the light industry enterprises.

Particular criticism was directed at Krasnoyarsk Kray during the 27th CPSU Congress for delays in the construction of housing and social and domestic installations. How are things there now?

Nazarov is then joined by Yuriy Sosuyev, in the Krasnoyarsk studio, accompanied by Vladimir Ivanovich Kosarev, deputy head of the kraykom Construction Department, and Vladimir Konstantinovich Shalin, head of the kraykom Directorate for Construction and Architecture. In Moscow is Kira Aleksandrovna Moskovtseva, head of the Directorate for Finance and Credit to Construction by Local Soviet Enterprises at the USSR Stroybank. She points out that capital construction plans for installations in the nonindustrial sphere were not fulfilled in the kray during any of the years of the 11th 5-Year Plan, for example in housing, schools, preschool establishments, vocational technical colleges, and especially in hospitals and pooliclinics.

Kosarev says that there is now a large-scale program under way in the kray for upgrading capacities at construction industry enterprises. Shalin says a specific difficulty in the kray is that projects are often shared by various contractors, but the kraykom was constantly battling with ministries and departments to introduce more single-contractor work. The Gosplan has now accepted their proposal to increase the construction base. Moskovtseva lists a number of projects in the kray that are notoriously behind schedule. The local officials accept her reprimand but say that they have composed a program, with the help of the Stroybank, to improve the situation. Moskovtseva asserts that, as the financing organ, the Stroybank is concerned with the imbalance in the 1986 plans for the construction of installations in the social sphere. To date, no contractor has been named for the bringing into service of more than 20,000 square meters of housing; no measures have been determined for the development of housing construction cooperation; delays in construction are not being made up sufficiently quickly.

A local official and a construction industry representative in Ufa are able to cite better news, and recount enthusiastically their successes in the reconstruction of a glass works and chemical works, both completed well ahead of schedule. Nazarov contrasts the Ufa approach of initiative and enterprising spirit with that in Krasnoyarsk, where those responsible always look to their superiors for guidance.

Lyudmila Semina reports from a 200-year-old cotton combine in Altay Kray, where reconstruction has been under way for a very long time, affecting output. Deputy Director for Capital Construction Oleg Aleksandrovich Chernyavtsy places the blame at the door of the Ministry of Light Industry, which has shown little determination to complete the, ob despite pleas from the enterprise itself.

SUPREME SOVIET COMMISSIONS DISCUSS BASHKIR AGRICULTURE

LD162310 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] A joint meeting of the USSR Supreme Soviet commissions for the agro-industrial complex and for the building materials industry was held in the Kremlin today.

The meeting discussed the work of local soviet and economic organs in Bashkir ASSR on development of the material and technical basis for storing and processing agricultural produce.

The report and the deputies' speeches noted that in accordance with the instructions of the 27th CPSU Congress, Bashkiria is doing a certian amount of work on setting up a material and technical basis for the processing sectors of agriculture-industry. In the 11th 5-year Plan, capacities for storing potatoes, vegetables, and fruit increased by 35 percent, grain by 31 percent. However, the commissions noted that work carried out in this area does not correspond to the demands of the congress.

Tasks are not being fulfilled for the production and procurement of the basic types of agricultural produce, for the output of fool industry articles, for increasing the capacities of storing facilities and the capacities of the processing industry; disproportions have been allowed to occur in siting.

At the same time there has been under-usage of the potential of existing enterprises; design capacities at new enterprises are not being achieved in time. Particular attention was paid to raising the technical level of production, the introduction of waste-free technologies, and progressive methods of stroage of agricultural and food products.

It was emphasized that practically no use was made of cooling systems and active ventilation in the storage of fruit and vegetables, or of other modern methods of storing produce.

The session noted that there is a high level of manual labor in the sector, much antiquated equipment, particularly in the canning industry, in fisheries, and in consumer cooperatives. All this leads to considerable losses of agricultural produce.

The USSR Ministry of Industrial Construction, the USSR Ministry of the Gas Industry, the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification, and other construction ministries have systematically not fulfilled the plans for the construction of projects for Bashkiria's agro-industrial complex. There has been a weakening of checks on the time expended and the quality of this construction by the republican Council of Ministers and by the local soviets of people's deputies. The decision adopted by the commissions gives concrete recommendations to local soviet and economic organs in the Bashkir ASSR, and to a number of ministries and departments of the USSR and the RSFSR to eliminate the shortcomings.

TASHKENT REPORTS EARTHQUAKE IN TAJIK SSR

GF151425 Tashkent Domestic Service in Uzbek 1200 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] At 0432 Moscow time today an earthquake occurred in the Tajik SSR. The epicenter of the tremors was 15 km away from the city of Kulyab, 109 km southeast of Dushanbe, the capital of Tajik SSR. The strength of the earthquake at the epicenter was measured at 4 to 5 on the 12-point scale. The people of Kulyab [words indistinct]. There have been no casualties or damage.

TASS DESCRIBES RESCUE MEASURES IN S. GEORGIA EARTH TREMORS

LD151923 Moscow TASS in English 1902 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Tbilisi May 15 TASS -- It has already been reported that an earthquake shook the southern areas of Georgia, a Soviet Caucasian Republic, on May 13. The tremor measured 7 points in the epicentre. Today tremors recurred....

On that day the earth seemed to rear up from strong tremors. When the stone walls of the newly-built eight-year school in Abul began trembling, the staff took care first and foremost to prevent panic and to evacuate children. The walls of the school were still shaking and cracking under the onslaught of fresh tremors and bricks were falling down chimneys but the schoolchildren were out of danger.

Regrettably, there were victims, a three-year-old girl of the Mkrtychyans in the village Toriya was killed. Not only the fellow villagers but the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Georgia, Dzhumber Patiashvili, and other leaders of the republic expressed their condolences to the family. They also shared in the grief of a family from the village Kumurdo in the Akhalkalaki district who had lost Rimma Kochkanyan, the mother of four.

The leaders of the republic met party activists in the disaster-hit areas, took interest in the resettlement of people whose homes had been ruined and in the organization of work at enterprises, collective farms, schools, retail outlets and the services. Concrete measures were drawn up to tackle all the questions under discussion.

Much damage was done to property. Twenty schools and eight livestock breeding farms were badly damaged in the Akhalkalaki district alone and homes were razed to the ground in some villages. Altogether 1,500 homes and several sheep shelters were totally ruined.

Tragedy brings Soviet people closer together. When it strikes, the people's hearts open wider to compassion and brim with a strong desire to help. This is what is taking place at Chernobyl today, and such sentiments also prevail in Georgia. In the early hours after the earthquake, the party district committees and the executive committees of the local soviets took their bearings in the situation and launched vigorous efforts to give assistance to the disaster-hit population. Truckloads of food and medicines were sent to villages and the medical personnel of the region was put on round-the-clock duty. Army troops immediately came to help as well.

MARS EXPEDITION TO BE LAUNCHED IN 1988

LD171452 Moscow World Service in English 1310 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Now some details about a new space venture. The Soviet Union plans to launch from its territory in July 1988 two space vehicles to explore Mars and the planets near its satellite, Phobos. This is an international experiment codenamed "Phobos." The project involves Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, the German Democratic Republic, Poland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Czechoslovakia, and the Soviet Union. Scientists of Sweden and Finland and specialists of the European Space Agency have expressed the desire to join the project. The Phobos expedition will last 460 days. The two spacecraft will have reached Mars only early in 1989. Details from a corresponding member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Dr Valeriy Barsukov:

[Begin Barsukov recording in Russian, fading to English translation] On this Phobos project we expect to explore the surface of Mars from an orbit around it. We expect to approach it at a close distance, about 50 miles, and pass very slowly over the Martian staellite Phobos. As plans stand, landing modules will be eased down on the surface of Phobos to study the composition of the satellite's ground and surface layer. Phobos will be also examined with long wave radio beams, thanks to which scientists will know for certain what the satellite consists of inside. [end recording]